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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Committee Members Meet in Algiers 8 Jul

LD0807190889 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud held bilateral talks with His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Algerian Republic, at Houari Boumedienne Airport in the Algerian capital during a stopover at the airport while on his way to the Kingdom. APS reports that the talks were expanded later to include the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, as well as His Royal Highness Amir Salman Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh region, and the director of the bureau of the Algerian president. APS added that the talks dealt with the results of the latest contacts between the three foreign ministers, and future action of the committee.

Algeria's Bessaieh Interviewed

LD0907113189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Bessaieh evaluates the discussions of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon with our colleague [name indistinct]:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Esteemed Minister, this afternoon [8 July] you had talks with your Saudi and Moroccan counterparts in the context of the meeting of the foreign ministers who are members [words indistinct] concerning the crisis in Lebanon. After that you also participated in the talks between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Can you tell us the results of these discussions?

[Bessaieh] The topic is, as you know, the treatment of the Lebanese issue through the recent developments which we noted in the Lebanese and Arab arenas. This was an opportunity to consult on some of the emergency issues, especially on security in Lebanon, its [word indistinct] and the consolidation of the cease-fire, so that we could begin the political treatment [word indistinct]. Following our evaluation, and the report which we presented to His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, His Majesty King Hassan, and the custodian of the two holy mosques, the heads of the two countries agreed to continue with the mission and charged their foreign ministers to continue their work through new meetings in order to complete the task. It is expected that we shall undertake another visit to Damascus where, God willing, we shall have a meeting with His Excellency President al-Asad in order to discuss with him all these issues.

[Correspondent] We know that the recent Oran summit invited Lebanese parliamentarians to meet in any country of their choice in order to [word indistinct] and prepare a draft plan for dialogue between the Lebanese in order to reconcile the protagonists. Are the parties to the conflict in Lebanon prepared to hold such a dialogue at the present time?

[Bessaieh] We are engaged in intensive contacts, and the envoy of the tripartite committee is, for his part, having contacts and meetings regarding this matter. We hope that the Lebanese MP's [members of parliament] will meet as soon as possible, and we wish to (?speed up this process). [end recording]

ACC Leaders To Meet in Sanaa 25 Sep

JN0107095789 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Jul 89 pp 1, 17

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—Dr Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], has announced that the ACC leaders will meet in Sanaa on 25 September. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Dr Nammar said that the ACC prime ministers will meet during the last week of August in Sanaa. Preparations are under way for this meeting in Baghdad because the ACC General Secretariat has not been completed yet. Dr Nammar added that during the summit meeting each country will present ready plans to be discussed.

Dr Nammar announced that the headquarters agreement will be signed this week between Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as the representative of the Jordanian Government, and Dr Nammar in his capacity as the ACC secretary general. Dr Nammar added the purpose of the agreement is to give privileges and immunity to the employees of the ACC General Secretariat and headquarters as well as to the movable property and correspondence.

Dr Nammar affirmed the concern of the General Secretariat for these privileges. He added: Nobody, including the secretary general, will be allowed to exploit these privileges for personal reasons or for violating the law of the headquarters state.

The ACC secretary general announced that the ACC temporary budget amounts to $2 million. This amount will be increased if the activities of the General Secretariat is increased. He said that he and the assistant secretary general are preparing the bylaws of the General Secretariat. The bylaws, he added, will be completed this week and will be presented to the ACC Ministerial Council during the coming meeting. A detailed budget for the coming year is also being prepared to include wages and running and investment expenses. This budget will also be presented to the ACC Ministerial Council for approval.

Dr Nammar announced that higher and executive positions will be filled soon. He added that these positions will be distributed fairly among the four states in order to benefit from the best experience in the ACC states.

On the time needed to implement the resolutions adopted at the Alexandria summit, Dr Nammar said that some of these resolutions are agreed upon and ready for implementation but they need the approval of the legislative sides in the four states. These resolutions were referred to the legislative committees in Egypt and will be endorsed next week, and then they will be immediately implemented.

With regard to the resolutions on aviation and judiciary in the four states, they will be discussed in detail. It has been agreed that specialized ministerial council will meet this week to endorse these resolutions. Within this framework, Dr Nammar added, the ACC foreign ministers will meet in Jordan or Egypt on 19 July.

With regard to the bilateral agreements and joint projects among the ACC states, Dr Nammar said these bilateral agreements and projects could be expanded to include the four member states.

Dr Nammar affirmed the ACC's concern to build cooperation relations between the ACC and the other Arab councils because these councils have a common objective—namely, economic development. The councils can cooperate in common projects and investments.

Dr Nammar expressed optimism over the launching of the ACC because the member states have huge resources and potentials that should be united. He said: It is time we paved our road toward economic development in light of the good relations among the member states. He added that the road is now paved to do something in the interest of the Arab citizens.

ACC Secretary Interviewed on Joint Industries

JN0407102489 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jul 89 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council, by several AL-DUSTUR reporters in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-DUSTUR] Is there any intention to fix the currency exchange rate among the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states or to protect the goods and commodities that are produced by the ACC states?

[Nammar] This issue is extremely important. The problem of the exchange rate will continue as long as the dollar value is fluctuating and while there is a balance of payments deficit. The problem is not that of dealing with a hard currency but rather of the fluctuation in the exchange rate. The economic integration is aimed at building the economic base. When we increase our production and exports we will limit our dependence on imports and the balance of payments will be adjusted. In this case, there will be a firm rate of exchange of the dollar. Perhaps it will fluctuate within very narrow limits. In this case, we will not fear the issue of economic integration among the ACC states.

Establishing one currency for the four states is out of the question and dealing on the bases of the barter principle is also out of the question. However, the system of dealing through banks without transferring currencies may be applied.

Therefore, as an economic power, we can deal with the outside world, which we cannot do without, from a strong position and we will be able to obtain better contracting terms at suitable prices. We will also be able to reduce our dependence on imports by relying on our economic structure.

If the aim of establishing the ACC is to effect economic growth, then we must solve the economic problems in the member states by establishing new specialized complementary projects, especially for instrumental capital goods, like spare parts, for instance.

[AL-DUSTUR] What will happen to the higher joint committees between the ACC states and what will happen to the bilateral agreements?

[Nammar] Bilateral agreements must be honored and implemented. These agreements can become quadrilateral after being studied, especially where joint projects are concerned.

As for the higher committees, I think their work will expand. This is demonstrated by the visits that the heads of the ACC governments are exchanging, the committees' meetings, and the achievements they realized. [passsage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] You speak of complementary economic projects, how will these projects be financed?

[Nammar] There is an intention to establish a fund to finance joint projects. The shares each state will contribute have not been fixed yet. The ACC is endeavoring to establish common denominators with other states and with similar councils in the region to obtain credit facilities for productive projects that will help encourage exports and improve economic circumstances.

I believe it is dangerous to make hasty decisions concerning joint production projects, especially the specialized ones.

[AL-DUSTUR] What position does the private sector occupy in the ACC interests, and what is its role in the economic integration?

[Nammar] We should encourage the private sector as a financial source to pave the way for big job opportunities and to ease pressure on the government to create new job opportunities and reduce unemployment, and consequently reduce pressure on the general budget. Integration necessitates standardizing regulations or introducing gradual changes to them. We do not object to an agreement on a minimum level of legal provisions in harmony with the interests of any of the ACC member states, particularly those related to joint projects. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] What about cooperation among the ACC and similar councils, and their relationship with the Arab League?

[Nammar] The three known councils are in harmony with the Arab nation's interests. There is clear provision that the ACC encourages bilateral and economic relations. Moreover, these councils are completely independent, and they all work within the framework of the Arab League. However, the ACC concentrates on the economic side more than the other councils. Coordination among the Arab councils will be direct whether in the field of exchanging information or experiences. I will visit the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] in the near future to discuss coordination and cooperation prospects. I would like to ask: Is there anything that prevents the establishment of joint projects among the ACC, GCC, and the AMU, or the exchange of information and expertise?

[AL-DUSTUR] What about military industrialization, especially as we know the Arab states pay billions of dollars to purchase weapons?

[Nammar] Military industrialization suffers from financial problems. If the required funds are made available by the three councils in particular, then it would be possible to overcome problems hindering the development and expansion of military industrialization. This is because military industrialization has a pan-Arab dimension. If we were able to build military factories with Arab capital, then these projects would alleviate the burdens on Arab budgets. The Arab Industrialization Organization in Cairo, if provided with the required funds, would be able to expand and meet the military needs of the Arab armies, in addition to eliminating external pressures that are usually attached to arms sales.

[AL-DUSTUR] Every nucleus of Arab unity is exposed to pressure, regardless of its source. Is the ACC exposed to certain pressures?

[Nammar] I swear that the ACC is not exposed to any pressures by any side. We study our steps, and our objective is to alleviate the sufferings of our citizens through this grouping. This is why we concentrate on economic integration and the establishment of joint projects that would meet the citizens' needs, alleviate the burdens of imports, and ease the pressure on the balance of payments through production.

[AL-DUSTUR] Is there any plan to form a parliament that includes the ACC four member states?

[Nammar] In my own opinion, the establishment of a joint parliament is a slogan that we are not in a hurry to implement. There are priorities, and the parliament is not one of them at present. This is because the establishment of a parliament would add further economic problems and burdens that we do not need now. I say frankly that I am not enthusiastic about raising such slogans at present. Let us concentrate on the economic side because it is our major concern. [passage omitted]

GCC To Seek Preferred Status With EEC Market

LD0607161289 Vienna OPECNA in English 1047 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, 6 July 89 (OPECNA)—Member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) are to seek preferential status with the single European market to be established in 1992, according to a newspaper report here Wednesday [5 July].

The Kuwait daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that last year the GCC accounted for some 16 percent of all EEC exports, amounting to 14 billion dollars, three times the value of goods imported from the United States and Japan.

The paper advocated "a more realistic and balanced," import-export exchange with the EEC, stressing that petrochemicals should be high on the list for inclusion in any future trade accord.

In recent years the value of exports to the EEC had declined due to falling oil prices, but the value of Gulf investments in Europe alone should suffice to give the GCC an important role in European trade, the paper added.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Questions U.S. Intentions in Dialogue

NC0907055589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has described the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue as important and necessary but said that it is proceeding very slowly and at a low level [mustawa saghir] for the 6th consecutive month.

In an interview to be published in the 10 July edition of AL-AKHBAR newspaper, 'Arafat said: I am afraid the purpose of this dialogue may be to gain time and give Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir the opportunity to strike at the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

'Arafat said that Shamir's recent statements and his adoption of Sharon's ideas concerning the "Israeli no's" give credence to the PLO analysis of the U.S. position, which is that the United States wants to give Shamir the time and opportunity to strike at the uprising.

'Arafat wondered about how the U.S. Administration will react to Shamir's statements and to Sharon's ideas, which have been adopted by Shamir.

Shamir's statement's, 'Arafat said, are diametrically opposed to the five points declared by President George Bush concerning Israel's security, land for peace, ending the Israeli occupation, and holding the international conference. They also contradict U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's call for Israel to withdraw from the Arab occupied territories.

What is happening now, 'Arafat said, is that the U.S. Administration is backing Shamir and his policies while at the same time it is ignoring the Palestinian initiative for peace. This initiative was endorsed by the recent Arab summit meeting in Casablanca as well as by 130 countries.

President 'Arafat said that the intifadah will continue in the occupied territories, despite any threats or declarations by Shamir or Sharon.

'Arafat said that he challenges Israeli leaders to quash the intifadah in 2 days, 2 weeks, 2 months, or 2 years, even by any criminal escalations against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

'Arafat said that the Palestinian initiative is no longer just Palestinian. It is an Arab initiative that is clearly defined and comprehensive, he asserted.

Further on Criticisms

JN0907183189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has vehemently criticized Washington and accused the U.S. Administration of protecting Israeli repression in the occupied territories. The PLO Executive Committee chairman said that the Americans have given Yitzhaq Shamir the green light to pursue barbaric measures against the Palestinians.

'Arafat added that Shamir and Sharon have affirmed to the U.S. Administration that they will wipe out the intifadah [uprising] before the end of this year.

With respect to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, 'Arafat said that the Palestinians have listened to the U.S. viewpoint, briefed them on their position, and asked questions that have still not been answered. 'Arafat accused the United States of not paying attention to the Palestinian cause, adding that the United States defends the right to self-determination of all people except Palestinians.

DFLP's Hawatimah on U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue

JN0907072689 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], denied what has been reported about a meeting between Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

Hawatimah, who participated in an important meeting of the Palestinian faction leaders in the Tunisian capital the night before last, added that no meeting took place between 'Arafat and Pelletreau.

However, he did say that a meeting between Fatah Central Council member Salah Khalaf—alias Abu-Iyad—and the U.S. ambassador has been discussed by Khalaf himself, who personally explained what happened at the meeting. This comes within the same framework of the third round of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He clarified that Pelletreau posed the same ideas as those contained in the election and autonomy projects. He also heard the same answers given by the Palestinian delegation in this dialogue.

In an indicative reference, Hawatimah declared that an agreement had taken place between the Palestinian leaderships over the necessity of putting an end to what he termed a game that has gone on too long—Palestinian-U.S. dialogue—due to the U.S. and Israeli tactic. He said this tactic targeted drowning the Middle East in an election project rather than gathering efforts to hold the international peace conference and enter into a serious discussion of the comprehensive and balanced solution which would guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people, the Arab right, and peace and security for all Middle East countries.

The DFLP secretary general expressed his belief that all this calls for the PLO telling the U.S. Administration: no more stalling, delays, and lies.

Hawatimah pointed out that the PLO now has all the effective and necessary weapons to put away the Israeli election project and open the door again before the Palestinian initiative, the Casablanca summit resolutions, the European summit resolutions, and the Soviet Union's stand in pushing the settlement process in the Middle East region in the right direction, after being exchanged by U.S. and Israeli hands since last March with the aim of wasting all efforts and giving Israel a new opportunity to attack the intifadah [uprising].

The Palestinian official affirmed that the U.S. goal of the three previous dialogue rounds was to seek a separate bilateral solution and push issues toward Shamir's plan and holding elections under occupation.

Answering a question to AL-ANBA' on what he means by folding the dialogue page—whether that means canceling contacts with the U.S. Administration and its stand by the Palestinian side—and what the next step is, Hawatimah said that he means ending the U.S.-Israeli game, which is based on pressure and propaganda for Shamir's plan under elections. This actually means rectifying the course of dialogue on the basis of almost the whole international will alongside the total Arab and Palestinian will as seen in the Palestine National Council resolutions of its 19th round and the political initiative based on these resolutions.

The Palestinian leader stressed the importance of continuing dialogue with the United States and not stopping it after 15 years of the arbitrary decision of no contact, as imposed by successive U.S. administrations, and no dialogue with the PLO.

However, Hawatimah also clarified that this alone is not enough, especially as the United States still insists this dialogue does not mean recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, independence, and implementation of the UN resolutions, especially Resolution 194 on the repatriation of Palestinians who have been uprooted from their homeland.

The Palestinian leader revealed that the Palestinian side discussed the necessity of rectifying the course of dialogue with the United States from a dialogue in a vicious circle to one heading toward discussing the comprehensive solution within the framework of an international conference.

The DFLP secretary general pointed out that the fourth official meeting between the United States and the PLO might take place in the second half of next August. However, he clarified that there is no definite indication in the air.

U.S.-PLO Meetings Reportedly Suspended

NC1007085689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0822 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Jul (MENA)—The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD reports today that the U.S. Administration has decided to suspend any meetings between Robert Pelletreau, U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, and Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

The paper adds that the U.S. Administration's decision comes after Abu-Iyad revealed that a meeting had taken place between the two men 2 weeks ago. The revelation subjected the U.S. Administration to a barrage of violent criticism from some members of Congress and from Israel and its friends in Washington.

The paper reports that the publicizing of the meeting between Abu-Iyad and Pelletreau has caused the cancellation of a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. State Department, that was due to take place during the latter's forthcoming tour of the Middle East.

The paper notes that the U.S. Administration had intended to reassure the Palestinians, through the Ross-'Arafat meeting, that the elections in the occupied Arab territories would not constitute a break between the Palestinians in the territories and their leadership in Tunisia. The meeting had also been designed to raise the level of the Palestinians-U.S. meetings.

Reportage on Reaction to Likud's Peace Plan Vote

Ahmad Jibril Cited

JN0807155189 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1420 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Answering a question on the recent Likud resolutions, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], said: First of all, we were not surprised by these results and resolutions. When they passed their resolutions, the Zionists were in full harmony with themselves and with the principles of their Zionist movement. The principles of the Zionist movement have always been clear throughout history, even if they were sometimes covered by some tactical steps here or there. In fact, at this time, we consider the Likud resolutions a slap in the face of 'Arafat and his course. We also consider them a strong blow to those who offered concessions and capitulated at the Casablanca summit and those who imagined that they will get something.

We are certain that in continuing to offer concessions, some Arab regimes and 'Arafat will only increase the Zionist intransigence and arrogance and will cause further harm to the Palestine question and our heroic people's struggle. Regarding what is being said to the effect that the Likud resolutions will cause a government crisis in the Zionist entity, we in the PFLP-GC stress that this is only a distribution of roles in a despicable and exposed Zionist game, whose objective is to gain further support from world public opinion and further Arab and Palestinian concessions.

Answering another question on linking the results of the Likud meetings and resolutions to the bus operation in Jerusalem the day before yesterday, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said: First, there is an exposed attempt by 'Arafat's capitulationist course to link the heroic bus operation that was carried out by a heroic struggler to the Likud resolutions. We say that this operation was a direct reply by the hero strugglers in Palestine to 'Arafat's defeatist stand at the recent Casablanca summit. The hero struggler, who carried out the bus operation, wanted to say that the weaklings' decisions do not concern us.

Second, the heroic operations that were recently carried out in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Ramla represented a clear escalation of the methods of the heroic intifadah [uprising] in the face of the occupiers. These operations are part of the armed struggle program that is being waged by the revolutionary Palestinian factions amid full capitulation of 'Arafat's course and his announcement of halting armed struggle against the enemy.

Third, the heroic operation, which the enemy called a form of terrorism, is a legitimate, justified action compared to the brutal actions that are being carried out daily against our people in occupied Palestine. The Zionists must know that the blood of our women, children, and youth is also sacred.

Fourth, these two important events, whether the Likud resolutions or the heroic operation that was carried out on the road to Jerusalem, necessitate that the capitulationist course of the Arab and Palestinian camp reconsider its stands in a manner equal to the volume of concessions they have offered during the past years. In the Palestinian arena, we believe that 'Arafat must resign immediately due to the failure of his destructive plans and wagers, from which our people have gained nothing except further killing, expulsion, and false dreams and which have increased the Zionist enemy's intransigence and arrogance.

Concluding, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said: What is required now is a serious stand by the masses of the Arab and Islamic nations to extend large-scale support for our heroic people's intifadah and overcome the state of general submission.

Termed 'Strong Blow' to Peace

JN0807165689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has affirmed that the Likud's unanimous decision to adopt Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied Arab territories is a strong blow to all peace efforts in the region and to the policy of gratuitous concessions.

In a press statement today, the spokesman added that this decision reaffirms the Zionist enemy leadership's adherence to its decision to terminate the intifadah [uprising] through stepping up repressive measures against the Palestinian people.

The spokesman called for disavowing the policy of gratuitous concessions and losing wagers and for adhering to national constants to support the intifadah and its escalation until the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are achieved, headed by the right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state. He also called for adherence to the idea of an international conference.

Rejection of Plan Reiterated

JN0907192489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] In a statement distributed today, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] reiterated its categorical rejection of terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold local elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the bayonets of the Israeli soldiers.

Dr George Habash affirmed the need that the intifadah [uprising] must continue and escalate. He said that the heroic "Allahu Akbar" operation on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway on Thursday confirms that our people's determination to offer martyrs and to fight has not faltered but is daily becoming firmer.

Dr George Habash said: What we are asked to do is to surrender. He wondered: Will we surrender? He affirmed that those who propose such an option must be confronted by the mobilization of our masses inside and outside the occupied territories and in the Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1948 to carry out the broadest democratic reform operation in the PLO institutions.

'Abd-al-Rahim on Vote

JN0707153889 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 7, INA—Secretary General of Arab Liberation Front 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad asked the American Administration to adopt unambiguous attitude versus the oppressive political policy practiced by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian uprising.

In an interview with IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today he said results of voting in meeting of the central committee of Herut Party on Wednesday confirmed the aggressive intentions and the Zionist insistence on occupation and rejection of peace opportunities and that what was urgently required now a frank answer from the United States of America and Arab public opinion and the friends at international level concerning the stand against the Zionist insistence on continuation of occupation, non-giving up one inch of the [West] Bank and the [Gaza] Strip and usage of all means of oppression against the uprising.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the resolutions clarified the real Israeli intentions towards the uprising in the occupied land, they are the intentions that began to appear through the bloody oppression of the Palestinian people's will, where the Zionist military establishment was despatched with all its weight beside the Zionist settlers to destroy the uprising.

The member of Executive Committee of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) urged it to call for holding a new round of dialogue with U.S. to explore reality of the

U.S. Administration's official attitude versus that development, otherwise there would be no meaning for continuity of Palestinian-American dialogue.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed the importance of action of the Arab committee which Casblanca summit conference decided to establish for supporting the Palestinian struggle, under the chairmanship of King Hassan II for conducting large-scale contacts on the international level in order to explain the Arab action for establishing peace in addition to quick action for offering all forms of diplomatic and material support to the uprising.

PLO Spokesman Comments on Israeli Bus Incident

LD0707133489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The occupied Arab territories witnessed today an unprecedented presence of Israeli armed forces and police in a bid to increase repression against Palestinian citizens and take revenge against them following yesterday's operation in Tel Aviv carried out by a Palestinian citizen in reaction to the desperate situation brought about by the growing Israeli repression. Hence the bus operation.

Regarding this operation, the news bureau contacted Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the PLO official spokesman:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Rahman recording] Yesterday's bus operation was an expression of the Palestinian people's rejection of the Israeli occupation. The Likud conference took place the day before yesterday and adopted resolutions against peace and the Palestinian people. The operation sought to tell the Israelis and the Likud that the Palestinian people are able to continue to defend their existence and rights with all means. This operation is a loud announcement by the Palestinian people to the Israelis and to the whole world that it will continue the struggle using all means and resources to defeat the Israeli occupation and to establish an independent Palestinian state. The victims of the bus operation are the victims of the Israeli decisions which have been made against peace and against the PLO. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cited on U.S. Position, Shamir Plan

JN0707185689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1800 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Washington, July 7 (KUNA)—The PLO spokesman in the U.S. 'Abd-al-Rahman emphasized here Friday that the U.S. now needs to reassess its endorsement of the Shamir election plan and move towards the convening of an international peace conference.

Speaking in an interview on Cable News Network's (CNN) International Hour, the Palestinian official said that the Bush administration must make it clear to Israel that "it cannot have its cake and eat it."

He said Israel must be made to understand firmly and clearly that "it cannot enjoy the support of the U.S. at the same time that it undermines the possibilities for peace in the Middle East."

'Abd-al-Rahman noted the fact that the Palestinians "made a very courageous peace initiative, which was not reciprocated by Israel."

He said the U.S. has been trying to convince the PLO that elections can be conducted "freely and democratically" in the occupied territories.

"We said yes, if the elections are to be free and democratic," he explained. "Now we have seen that they are not going to be free or democratic because they are going to the under Israeli conditions. Now it is up to the U.S. to come forward with a new position."

The PLO official emphasized that any agreement must be based on the following principles: an exchange of land for peace, the international conference, the implementation of U.N. Resolutions 242, 338 all reaffirming the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

"You cannot preclude Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. You cannot accept Israeli settlements; Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied territories, and this is the position of the U.S. and the rest of the international community," 'Abd-al-Rahman asserted.

He added straightforward, courageous position by the U.S. Government is required, it must stretch its hand to the rest of the world to work together for the achievement of peace.

[Words indistinct] will weaken the chances for chances for success by discarding the participation of other member states who are permanent members of the Security Council. The U.S. should come forward and have a different look at the Palestinian peace initiative," [word indistinct].

PFLP-GC Praises Islamic Jihad, Bus Operation

JN0907180989 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Jul 89

["Text" of "message of greetings" from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command to the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine; date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Only those are believers who have believed in God and His apostle, and have never since doubted, but have striven with their belongings and their persons in the cause of of God: Such are the sincere ones. [Koranic verse]

Brothers in the Islamic Jihad Movement: While it takes pride in the al-Qastal operation that one of your heroic strugglers has carried out against the Zionist invaders in

occupied Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] would like to also voice its great pride in your movement, which we know to be an Islamic Jihad Movement through its deeds and not only its words.

We also affirm that this Zionist enemy, which has desecrated our holy places and despoiled our sanctitities, understands this language only. We grasp this opportunity to reiterate to you the pledge that the PFLP-GC will pursue the course in which it firmly believes in and from which it has not deviated from its early days—the course of armed struggle to liberate all of Palestine and purge it of the Zionists' filth.

Perhaps the great al-Qastal operation will be a lesson to the defeatists and capitulators and those of our people who have been decieved by them that our people will not surrender and are capable of striking back with interest at those who are persecuting them and usurping their land. Be not weary and faint-hearted, crying for peace, when you should be uppermost: For God is with you, and will never put you in loss for your good deeds. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

Communique on 'Arafat's Visit to Bucharest

LD0807185489 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] At the end of the visit which the brother leader Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] president of the Palestinian state, paid to the Republic of Romania, and after his meeting with President Nicolae Ceausescu, the following press communique was released in the Romanian capital of Bucharest:

Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanian Communist Party general secretary and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, met on Wednesday with Comrade Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian state and PLO Executive Committee chairman, who paid a working visit to our country at the invitation of the Romanian party leader and head of state.

Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu welcomed Comrade Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Romania in his capacity as the president of the Palestinian state, noting that the visit contributes to the undertaking of new steps toward broadening bilateral relations and strengthening relations of friendship and close cooperation between the Romanian and Palestinian Arab peoples.

Comrade Yasir 'Arafat expressed his deep gratitude to Comrade Ceausescu for the continuous support he gives to the cause of the Palestinian people and for Romania's constant stand in favor of a political solution to Middle East issues.

The important guest also expressed his high admiration for the great achievements made by the Romanian people in developing the economy, science, and culture, pointing to Romania's full repayment of its foreign debt. This payment serves as an example to all the peoples of the world in their struggle for the defense of their national independence and its consolidation.

Comrade Yasir 'Arafat presented a report on the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and the PLO's recent moves aimed at resolving the situation in the Middle East and bringing about a just peace in that region.

During their talks the two comrades stressed the importance of proclaiming the establishment of the state of Palestine, and the importance of the political statement issued on the occasion. They also considered that in the current suitable circumstances efforts must be made to convene an international conference under UN auspices, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestinian state, Israel, and the permanent member-states of the Security Council.

Comrades Nicolae Ceausescu and Yasir 'Arafat also expressed their determination to develop and reinforce the relations of friendship and cooperation between Romania and the Palestinian state and between the Romanian Communist Party and the PLO.

At the end of the talks, the two leaders affirmed the fruitful character of the new round of talks in the summit dialogue and expressed their confidence that Romanian-Palestinian relations will continuously develop at the various levels.

Egypt

Mubarak Reportedly To Visit Sudan Soon

JN0807175089 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned that President Husni Mubarak will pay a short visit to Khartoum during the next few days before his visit to Paris on 14 July. The visit might be secret and will not be announced.

Senior Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo expressed the conviction that President Mubarak will emphasize his support for the new Sudanese leadership as well as Egypt's backing of the Sudanese people at the present stage. The sources expect the new chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council to participate in the OAU summit in Addis Ababa on 24 July to discuss the crisis in southern Sudan with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Dailies Commend U.S. Position on Israel, PLO

NC0907091589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Several commentaries appearing in today's Egyptian newspapers are critical of the recent amendments by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to his plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories.

Egyptian newspapers call on the United States to make fresh moves to force the rulers of Tel Aviv to abandon time-wasting policies toward peace in the Middle East.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has driven the last nail in the coffin of his initiative to hold elections in the occupied territories.

The hardline modifications in Shamir's plan, AL-JUMHURIYAH says, are flagrant evidence of the extent of animosity to peace harbored by Shamir and a handful of extremists in Israel. Shamir and Israeli extremists, the paper adds, are pouring oil on fire in the hope of perpetuating the occupation and giving it firmer roots in the Palestinian territories.

The paper says that Shamir has overturned a vehicle for peace and dashed the hopes of millions of Arabs, Palestinians, and even Israelis.

Another newspaper, AL-AKHBAR, comments on the fact that the United States refrained from using its power of veto against the recent UN Security Council resolution that deplored Israel's deportation of Palestinians from their land. Washington's stand proved that the United States cannot condone indefensible Israeli acts.

The United States, Al-AKHBAR adds, also wanted to signal Israeli rulers over its discomfort concerning the gimmick staged by Shamir and the Likud bloc to break free from Shamir's earlier proposals to hold elections.

AL-AKHBAR notes yesterday's remarks by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the effect that additional conditions the Likud bloc has stipulated regarding the elections—including a stipulation that the intifadah [uprising] in the West Bank and Gaza should stop—would make peace moves in the Middle East more difficult.

AL-AKHBAR says that the entire world is expecting "more serious" U.S. moves to persuade the Israeli leaders that delaying tactics are useless and that peace would be better for everyone, not the least for Tel Aviv.

A third newspaper, AL-AHRAM, praises the U.S. attitude to Israel, citing the statement by the U.S. State Department in which it voiced rejection of the deportations of Palestinians and described the measure as harmful and contradicting the Geneva Convention.

Despite Israel's sharp criticism of the United States over talks between the U.S. ambassador in Tunis and Salah Khalaf, the number-two man in the PLO, the U.S. State Department has announced that the U.S. dialogue will continue, AL-AHRAM reports.

AL-AHRAM notes that the U.S. Administration has stood firm against the Israeli campaign since the decision to upgrade the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was made public. The United States has voiced its satisfaction that Yasir 'Arafat and PLO officials have effectively ended all links with terrorist actions since the decision to renounce terrorism was made last December. The United States said that 'Arafat cannot be held responsible for every terrorist operation, even if it is undertaken by one of the PLO groups. This is particularly true with regard to operations carried out across Lebanese borders.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that the more brutal Israel's military and political campaigns become, the more the U.S. seems to opt for reason and fairness.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Palestinian Official 9 Jul

NC0907142089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1226 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a meeting here today with a Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, who is currently visiting Cairo.

'Abd-Rabbuh said after the meeting that Dr 'Abd-al-Majid told him that President Mubarak will give priority to developments in the Palestinian issue during his talks in Paris with some of the world leaders who will be attending the French Revolution bicentennial. He noted that President Mubarak will continue his endeavors to

promote the peace process despite the obstacles Israel is placing on the road of Peace. 'Abd-Rabbuh quoted Dr 'Abd-al-Majid as saying that President Mubarak will stress the need to convene an international peace conference in the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned. He praised the support of the Egyptian president and people for the Palestinian efforts.

The Palestinian official explained that Egyptian-Palestinian exchanges fall within the framework of bilateral consultations over developments in the Palestinian issue at the Arab and international levels as well as the steadfastness of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories. 'Abd-Rabbuh added that he had discussed with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid the joint action to make progress in the peace process and to prepare the atmosphere for convening an international peace conference in the Middle East.

Regarding the decision by the Likud bloc led by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to amend his proposal for holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, 'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that the Likud's latest decisions ended not only the peace process but also what he called the illusion that Shamir had plans for peace. The Palestinian official added that the intentions and objectives of Shamir's plan for elections have been revealed to the entire world; namely, that Shamir's aim was not to advance a peace plan but to obstruct the intifadah as well as efforts to achieve peace.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is continuing. He hoped that more emphasis will be given to U.S. statements and stands calling for ending the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories and for exchanging land for peace so that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination could be attained.

Meets U.S. Ambassador

NC0907144889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1316 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Egypt has informed the United States that the conditions Israel has put on Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories place new obstacles before the peace process, make the situation more complicated, increase tension, and step up violence, thus posing extremely serious threats to the peace process.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conveyed Egypt's views to the United States during his meeting today with Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Cairo, considering the United States a party to the peace process.

In a statement after the meeting, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said he had emphasized to the U.S. ambassador Egypt's eagerness to continue the peace process and the need to combine efforts to expedite the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Ghali Denounces Israeli Elections' Conditions

NC0907101889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0939 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the new hardline stipulations which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has appended to his plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza robbed the election plan of all substance, torpedoed the possibilities for holding peaceful negotiations, and caused grave damage to the peace process.

Speaking to journalists today, Dr Ghali said that the new conditions mean that the Israeli prime minister is not seeking to negotiate with Palestinians but to give a semblance of legitimacy to military rule in the occupied territories.

Ghali Interview Cited

NC1007102789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Jul (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has underlined that the PLO alone is entitled to determine its stand on the election plan devised by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He noted that the Israeli parties are divided among themselves over this plan and that Israel persists in torpedoing peace opportunities.

In an interview with today's issue of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Dr Ghali said the Palestinian leaders are backing the intifadah [uprising] because it is the natural embodiment of the Palestinian reaction to oppression and the continuous violations of human rights. He added that these leaders agree that the PLO alone is entitled to take a stand on the election plan.

Commenting on the U.S. stand on the Palestinian cause, Dr Ghali remarked that this stand has undergone promising and notable changes. He said, however, that these changes have not crystallized fully or reached a desirable standard as far as the international conference, which is the correct formula to resolve the Palestinian issue and lay the foundations of peace in the region, is concerned.

Libya

'Official Source' Cited on Relations With Sudan

LD0807172289 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] An official source at the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation announced the following:

The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and international cooperation in the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] followed with great

interest the latest developments in the republic of fraternal Sudan and while it points out that recognition of the Sudanese State already exists and does not need confirmation, the SPLAJ affirms the depth of the brotherly and fateful ties between the Arab people in Libya and Sudan. It also believes with all conviction that fraternal Sudan will (proceed forward?) in assuming its national responsibilities and its role in achieving Arab unity and African solidarity.

Jabir Receives Sudanese RCC Members 7 Jul

LD0707210689 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir met this evening with Staff Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir and Major Ibrahim Shams al-Din Ibrahim, members in the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in sister Sudan.

Hosts Banquet for Sudanese

LD0707102589 Tripoli JANA in English 0823 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nasir [July] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir gave yesterday a banquet in honour of Staff Brigadier al-Tahir and to Major Ibrahim, members of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, and to their accompanying delegation.

Sudanese Officials Leave 7 Jul

NC0707221789 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir met this evening with Staff Brigadier General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir and Major Ibrahim Shams al-Din Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council members in fraternal Sudan.

Brig Gen al-Tahir, Maj Ibrahim, and the delegation accompanying them left Tripoli this evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Col Jabir saw them off at Tripoli International Airport.

Sudan

RCC Forms New Civilian Government 9 Jul

NC0907214589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] issued a decision today forming the new civilian government under RCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir.

The decision appoints RCC Deputy Chairman Staff Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih as deputy prime minister.

The following are the names of the Sudanese cabinet members.

—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir: Prime minister and defense minister.
—Staff Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih: Deputy prime minister.
—Staff Colonel al-Tayyib Muhammad Ibrahim: Minister for the Presidency.
—'Ali Sahlul: Foreign minister.
—Staff Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih: Interior minister.
—Hasan Isma'il al-Bili: Justice minister and attorney general.
—'Ali Muhammad Shammu: Minister of culture And Information.
—Dr Sayyid 'Ali Zaki: Minister of finance and national economy.
—Ahmad 'Ali Taraf: Minister of agriculture and natural resources.
—'Abdallah (Diqnibal): Minister of guidance.
—Dr Ya'qub Abu-Shurah: Minister of irrigation and water resources.
—Eng 'Abd-al-Mun'im (Khawjali): Minister of energy and mining.
—Muhammad 'Umar 'Abdallah: Minister of industry.
—Mahjub al-Badawi Muhammad: Minister of education.
—Major General (Retired) Eng Muhammad al-Hadi al-Murdi: Minister of housing, works, and public utilities.
—Dr Faruq al-Bishri: Minister of trade, cooperation, and supply.
—Dr Shakir al-Sarraj: Minister of health and social welfare.
—Peter (Ourat): Minister of relief and affairs of the displaced.
—'Ali Ahmad Ibrahim: Minister of transport and communications.
—George (Kinja): Minister of labor and social insurance.
—Natali Ambu: Minister of local government and regional coordination.

Papers Say Al-Madhi Trial 'Within Week'

NC0807111089 Cairo MENA in English 0626 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, July 8 (MENA)—[Passage omitted] The stories of the three Cairo, Arabic-language mornng dailies were filed by their newspapers' correspondents in Khartoum. AL-AHRAM also gives credit to news agency dispatches from the Sudanese capital. [passage omitted]

According to AKHBAR AL-YAWM and AL-AHRAM, former Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will stand trial within a week on charges of corruption, corrupting the government, sinking Sudanese debts and causing starvation in the country. Al-Mahdi, who was a fugitive for a week, was apprehended last Thursday night and placed in Cooper Prison in Khartoum.

AL-AHRAM reports that the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution will begin in Addis Ababa next Tuesday peace talks with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army/Movement on ending the war in the south and with the Ethiopian Government separately. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH reports in its story that Egypt agreed to give political asylum to Sudanese refugees who belonged to the former Sudanese regime and that the new Sudanese leadership did not object but showed complete understanding of Egypt's position which follows an old tradition. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir on 'Fair Trial'

NC0807123489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in Sudan, has emphasized that the political detainees will have a fair trial. He said the trial will commence once an attorney general and the justice minister in the new civilian government are appointed, noting that this government will be announced in the near future.

In a statement to MENA, Lt Gen al-Bashir said those found innocent by the special courts set up for this purpose will be released immediately. Those convicted will have the right to appeal within a week before the courts of appeal that will be set up for this purpose, he added.

In another development, RCC member staff Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih has paid a visit to the political detainees who were arrested following the outbreak of the national salvation revolution and who are locked up at Cooper Prison. Brig Gen Abu-Salih stressed that they will be interrogated in accordance with the law and that only those among them who are found guilty of charges punishable under the currently applicable laws will be tried and brought to account.

Brig Gen Abu-Salih gave instructions that all the detainees should be treated well and that all their needs, including books, magazines, papers, medicines, and other items, would be made available to them. He promised the detainees to let their relatives visit them this week.

In the meantime, RCC member Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Karrar, who is also the chairman of the council's economic committee, is expected to meet on Monday with the currency dealers currently in custody in prison to explain to them the new economic policy and to see if they are willing to commit themselves to it.

Deputy Chairman Reports Arrest of Al-Mirghani

LD0907195689 Omdurman Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation and chairman of the security and operation committee, has stated that Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani has been arrested at his house in Khartoum and is now in the Cooper Prison with other political detainees.

BBC Cites SPLA Position on Peace Talks

AB0607201589 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 6 Jul 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpt] Hopes over an early peace in Sudan following Lieutenant General Al-Bashir's coup that toppled Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government on Friday [30 June] have rather faded with the mysterious postponement of talks in Addis Ababa with the rebel SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army]. The meeting was supposed to happen today; top officials flew in from Khartoum after a flurry of telephone calls and all looked set for talks to get underway. But then out of the blue, they failed to materialize. Our correspondent Menzy Houston was in Addis Ababa yesterday talking to the SPLA. She flew on to Khartoum overnight, and on the line Robin White asked her what on earth was going on:

[Begin recording] [Houston] I think that the new government in Khartoum is very eager to show that they want to talk and they want peace. The guy I have spoken to—someone from the SPLA in Addis Ababa—and he said that the question of talks just has not arrived at the moment, because his movement has not yet officially reacted to the new government. He denied that the new government has contacted the SPLA. He said that there have been no direct contacts between the two sides, and he said that the SPLA leaders are going to meet and discuss the pronouncements since the new government has put [word indistinct] on the radio. Then they will react and that will be the time to start thinking about talks, but he would not give me a time (?period) for that. He said it could be days or weeks.

[White] So all the speculation that Garang and Al-Bashir, let's say, had a chat on the phone somehow, that's all rubbish, is it?

[Houston] According to the spokesman for the SPLA, yes, it is not true at all. And that was what was said in the Armed Forces newspaper in Khartoum. But I think the feeling is that that could have been wishful thinking rather than fact.

[White] So, that delegation that has gone to Addis Ababa, what are they going to do, just kick their heels up or maybe they will have a chat with the few Ethiopians and then come back? Or what are they going to do?

[Houston] This delegation was one of the several going to neigboring countries to meet heads of state. One has been to Egypt, another to Saudi Arabia. Now this delegation was going officially to meet Colonel Mengistu, the Ethiopian president, and the meeting with the SPLA-SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] was just another part of the delegation's duties. They will go ahead with these other official functions to meet the Ethiopian president and then present a document to the new government in Khartoum. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Talks With Rebels Set for Addis Ababa 11 Jul

JN0907180389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Jul 89 pp 1

[By Mahmud Barakat and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Khartoum—A delegation from the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan is to begin separate talks on Tuesday [11 July] with Ethiopian Government representatives and the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] of southern Sudan.

Meanwhile, according to an officer attached to the office of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, head of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who was arrested last Thursday, is to stand trial in the coming few days. The officer emphasized that Al-Mahdi, who is detained at Khartoum's central prison, will have a fair trial. [passage omitted]

The RCC delegation to Addis Ababa will be headed by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah. The Sudanese team will also include Colonel Martin Malwal [name as received]—a southerner, and Kamal 'Ali.

The Sudanese delegation was to have traveled to Addis Ababa on Thursday. But at the last minute, a message came from Addis Ababa proposing the postponement until Tuesday when President Mengistu Haile-Mariam will have fulfilled prior engagements and returned home.

According to informed sources, the Addis Ababa message suggested that the delay will give the Sudanese delegation the opportunity to get in touch with the SPLA.

Yesterday, a member of the RCC declared that SPLA officials had contacted a southern member of the council, who is a cousin of John Garang, the SPLA leader. The officer would not name Garang's cousin. The RCC has three southern Sudanese members—Brigadier General Dominic Kazyanyu, and Colonels Martin Malwal and Bakawan [last two names as received]. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Holds News Conference 8 Jul

NC0807200589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], has declared that he will form the new Sudanese cabinet under his chairmanship tonight or tomorrow at the latest.

Speaking at a news conference in Khartoum this evening, he said that the cabinet will consist of 21 ministers, including the prime minister and deputy prime minister. He added that he will not appoint ministers of state in the new cabinet except for a minister of state for defense, because he will personally be the president of the state [as received] and RCC chairman, in addition to holding the post of minister of defense.

Regarding the efforts and contacts with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] designed to establish peace in south Sudan, he said: In our contacts with the SPLM we have, for our part, taken practical steps, foremost among which were the declaration of a general amnesty for all those who have carried arms, the announcement of a 1-month truce, and the granting of permission for the relief efforts to continue in the regions according to the UN plan. We have even asked that the relief include other areas in the south.

Lt Gen al-Bashir said that the RCC has been eager to meet with the John Garang movement from the time it was set up. We contacted the Sudanese ambassador in Addis Ababa to prepare for the arrival of an RCC delegation bringing a message from the RCC chairman, he stated. No response has so far been received to these efforts, not even their acceptance of the truce or agreement to the arrival of a delegation from our side, he added.

Regarding Sudan's foreign policy, its role in bringing about Arab unity, and its position vis-a-vis the Arab groupings, he said: We are an Arab state. We believe that Arab unity is a strategic aim that must be sought and that we must attempt to attain overall Arab unity. He said the Arab groupings are a healthy and practical phenomenon and will be capable in the future of achieving comprehensive unity. He stressed Sudan is qualified to join any of the three Arab groupings.

He also noted Sudan is even more qualified to enter into tripartite unity [wihdah thulathiyah] with Egypt and Libya, saying that such unity represents the heart of the Arab nation. Asked about the extent of the response of the Egyptian and Libyan leaderships to the concept of tripartite unity, he said: We have been in touch with the two countries' leaders and have found acceptance from these parties. But no practical steps have started yet on this issue "because we are currently in the process of forming and establishing the state and we cannot take practical and quick steps on this issue until the state apparatus has been completed."

Regarding the press in Sudan and the reappearance of the newspapers that have stopped publication, Lt Gen al-Bashir stated: We closed down the newspapers because the press was chaotic before the revolution. A law on the press and publications will be issued very soon. In accordance with this law, licenses and approval will be given to publish independent and free newspapers that are capable of making constructive criticisms of the ruling authority.

Answering a question on the extent of the present military government's ability to resolve Sudan's problems despite the failure of former military governments, he said: The former military governments did not come to power with a clear concept. As to the May (Numayri) movement, after coming to power it relied on opportunists and profiteers who succeeded in taking control of the May regime, split the Revolution Command Council, and dominated it until the matter ended with the regime's downfall. He added: We lived through the May period and got to know its mistakes and we will work to avoid them. One principle drawn up by the RCC is that no authority or position will be given to anyone who asks for it, regardless of his ability. He stressed that there are specific criteria for choosing ministers; namely, efficiency, honesty, loyalty, and impartiality.

Al-Bashir said that the Numayri regime pursued extremist directions in its foreign policy. The policy of the present RCC, however, will be balanced, he declared. We will maintain distinctive relations with the Arab brothers and with neighboring African states, without polarization, he stated.

Regarding the agreement which the Democratic Unionist Party signed last November to solve the problem of the south and the RCC's stand on it, Lt Gen al-Bashir said that all these agreements were party maneuvers, and were not supposed to solve the problem. They were based on partisan one-upmanship. If we review them, we will find that they were copies of the (Kokadam) declaration which was signed by the al-Ummah Party and the Garang movement some time ago, and which was not approved by the Democrtatic Unionist Party, he said. This prompted the al-Ummah Party not to approve the November agreement.

Al-Bashir said: We consider athe previous agreements with Garang's movement as null and void. In our view, the RCC has come up with a new and clear vision for a solution acceptable to all parties. He added: We will not accept any preconditions nor will we impose any on Garang's movement. Each side will propose an overall solution when we sit at the negotiating table. He went on to say: We in the RCC and the brothers in the Garang movement understand each other better because we speak the same language; that is, military language. We have suffered more than others from the calamities of war in the southern part of the country.

Speaking about the political detainees, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: Accusations and suspicions have been raised about them which lack information and evidence. We have ordered the formation of investigative committees which will conduct just investigations. Each one of the detainees will have the right to consultation and he will be able to obtain any document he requires.

Al-Bashir also said that another order had been issued on the establishment of courts to try anyone against whom there is confirmed evidence. Anyone found not guilty will be freed immediately, he asserted.

Concluding the news conference, Al-Bashir stated that the mayor of the capital and governors of the provinces have been given the authority to form these courts. He stressed that the members of the court should be selected for their integrity, neutrality, and conscience.

Cited on Darfur Talks

EA0807193689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 July 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, says the deterioration of conditions in Darfur was caused by a regional government which revived racial and tribal arrogance.

In reply to a question from SUNA, he added that the parties had begun to nurture this arrogance in order to make cheap gains. He pointed out that with the disappearance of those parties, 50 percent of the solution had been achieved. He said that the negotiations now taking place in Darfur were proceeding very well and that they would lead to the termination of the dispute there.

Asked about the presence of foreign forces in Darfur, Lt Gen al-Bashir said there were no foreign forces as such, although opponents of the Chadian Government were to be found there. He stated: We, for our part, have made it clear that we do not accept the presence of armed opponents of the Government of Chad. He explained: We welcome opponents only as refugees. He said Sudan was keen to see stability in Chad as conflict there directly affects Sudan. He expressed Sudan's readiness to mediate between the Chadian opposition and the government, particularly in the light of the Chadian Government's expression of support for the salvation revolution in Sudan. He added: We are also in a position to make a positive move towards better relations between the two sister countries—Libya and Chad.

Al-Bashir Meets Former Leader Siwar al-Dhahab

EA0707213189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation [RCC], had a meeting in his office this evening with Field Marshal (Rtd) 'Abd-Al-Rahman

Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab [chairman of the Transitional Military Council which governed Sudan for a year after the overthrow of Numayri in 1985]. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, Colonel Pio Yokan, and Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, who are members of the RCC.

Field Marshal Siwar al-Dhahab offered his congratulations and wished the revolution success. He expressed his support for this blessed step. He said the internal and external support the revolution has received clearly reflects the sound orientation and upright policies which the revolution has pursued in its successful course.

Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir said that the leaders of the revolution appreciated the field marshal's visit and his congratulations. He said that they would listen to all opinions, particularly those that come from true and sincere citizens.

Former Leaders Request Asylum in Egypt
JN1007140289 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Jul 89 pp 1, 10

[By 'Abd-al-Karim Salim]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that leaders of the Sudanese revolution have asked President Mubarak to convey to American, European, Asian, and African world leaders, with whom he will meet during the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution in Paris, the viewpoint of the salvation revolution, its leaders' political trends, and the reasons that prompted them to make the change and assume power. They also asked him to assert to the world leaders that the new leaders are Sudanese nationalists who believe in a united Sudan enjoying national unity and peace and that they are committed to the policy of good-neighborliness with brothers and neighbors.

Through the delegation that visited Egypt recently and met with President Mubarak, the Sudanese command council asked President Mubarak to help Sudan by urging the world to support it in emerging from its economic crisis and achieving peace in the south.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also learned that Egypt has agreed to give political asylum to former Sudanese politicians. The new Sudanese leaders did not object to that and fully understood the dimensions and meanings of the Egyptian stand, which demonstrates a very old Egyptian tradition. Al-JUMHURIYAH has learned that a number of former Sudanese leaders have actually requested this [political asylum] and that the new leaders are fully aware of the details of this subject and did not object. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Official on Restoration of Relations With Iran

LD0907104189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] London, July 9, (KUNA)—Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid Sunday [9 July] stressed Kuwait's desire for normal relations with neighbouring countries.

Speaking to daily "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT" published here today the official said that Kuwait hopes that a comprehensive peace agreement would be signed between Iran and all states in the region to start a new phase of good neighborly relations among countries overlooking the Arabian Gulf.

Al-Rashid told the London based paper that circumstances are appropriate to sign such a treaty adding that there are indicators that both countries, Iraq and Iran, want to maintain the current ceasefire between them.

Interviewed in Kuwait, the official said that his country does not mind restoring diplomatic relations with Iran to the normal level since both, Kuwait and Iran, are not in conflict with each other. Al-Rashid said that peace has to be just and comprehensive to offer the best guarantees to all Arab Gulf states for working together in reconstruction and removal of all vestiges of war.

The state minister welcomed the positive developments that are being witnessed in Lebanon due to the efforts of the Tripartite Arab Committee.

Stability and unity of Lebanon is a national matter and the Lebanese are responsible in the first place and are thus to end their differences and look after the welfare of their country, Al-Rashid concluded.

Oman

U S. Secretary of State Baker Arrives in Muscat

JN0807071489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Muscat, 8 Jul (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Muscat from Southeast Asia early this morning on a 2-day visit to Oman. Baker is expected to meet later today with Fahr Ibn-Taymur al-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, and Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign relations. The talks between the two sides will focus on a number of issues of common interest.

Received by Deputy Prime Minister

JN0807133689 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] His Highness Fahr Ibn-Taymur al-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, received in his highness' office in Bayt al-Falaj camp today U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. During the meeting, bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the U.S. official and the U.S. charge d'affaires and military attache in the Sultanate. It was attended on the Omani side by 'Awad Bin-Badr al-Shanfari, the Sultanate's ambassador to the United States, as well as Staff Brigadier General Malallah Bin-Rustum [name indistinct], Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Bin-Salih al-Zabbar, and Khalifah Bin-Khalfan al-'Amiri from the office of his highness the deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs.

Joint Talks Begin 8 Jul

JN0807135589 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] A round of official Omani-U.S. talks was held at the Foreign Ministry Headquarters today under His Excellency Yusuf Ibn-Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and His Excellency James Baker, U.S. secretary of state.

The two sides discussed the existing relations between the two friendly countries and means to promote them. The two sides also exchanged viewpoints on current developments in the region on both the Gulf and Arab levels, in addition to a number of international issues of mutual interest.

On the Omani side, the talks were attended by His Highness Haytham Ibn-Tariq Ibn-Taymur, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; Ambassador 'Abdallah Ibn-'Ali al-Najjar, head of the European Department; and 'Awad Ibn-Badr al-Shanfari, the Sultanate's ambassador in Washington.

On the U.S. side, the talks were attended by the U.S. charge d'affaires and members of the delegation accompanying the guest secretary of state.

Predeparture Statement Noted

JN0907140189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Muscat, 9 Jul (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the delegation accompanying him left Muscat this afternoon following a 2-day visit to Oman.

The U.S. secretary of state was seen off by 'Abdallah Ibn-'Ali al-Najjar, chief of the European desk at the Omani Foreign Ministry; the Omani ambassador in Washington; and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Muscat.

In a predeparture statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, the U.S. secretary of state said that Omani-U.S. relations are excellent. He said that his talks with officials in Oman dealt with a number of international issues of mutual concern as well as the strong relations between the two country.

Answering a question on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, he said that the U.S. dialogue with the PLO is continuing through the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, who is considered the only channel for this dialogue. Baker expressed the hope that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will help achieve a peaceful settlement to the Middle East question.

The U.S. secretary of state is expected to join U.S. President George Bush in a European tour that will include Poland, Hungary, and the Netherlands before he heads for Paris to attend the Paris summit of the major industrialized countries.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister Reaffirms Stand on Pilgrimage

LD0807162789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1524 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 8 July—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed its unyielding and declared stand allowing no one to undermine security at God's holy house and His messenger's mosque and has stressed its categorical rejection of any attempt aimed at the security of pilgrims and citizens.

This came in a statement made today by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of the interior and chairman of the Supreme Hajj Committee, to Jordanian media after receiving the minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts, and leader of the Jordanian hajj mission, Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khayyat.

His royal highness stressed Saudi Arabia's absolute rejection of any attempt by the rulers of Iran to turn the pilgrimage into anything other than that which is required by a Muslim to perform. He said: Any threat to the security of pilgrims is rejected, whether Iranians arrive in the holy lands or not. This is a firm policy known to everyone.

His royal highness welcomed the Muslim Iranian people at any time, whether for the pilgrimage or for the umrah [minor pilgrimage]. However, his royal highness the interior minister stressed that the issue of the security of pilgrims and the pilgrimage could not be negotiated, compromised, or subjected to pressure. His royal highness stressed that all Muslims, whether individuals or Islamic organizations or states, stood by Saudi Arabia in its efforts to safeguard the security of the Hajj and pilgrims. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Returns From Morocco 8 Jul

LD0907041589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2302 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, arrived in Jeddah at 0100 from the Moroccan Kingdom after taking part in Algiers in the work of the Casablanca summit conference and the meetings and talks of the three-man committee which was entrusted with the task of solving the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Also arriving with his majesty the king were his royal highness the governor of Riyadh region, Prince Salman Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and His Royal Highness the Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN0807175689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Jul (WAKH)—Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates.

On hand to welcome him were UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad al-Nuhayyan, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Zayid al-Nuhayyan, and other officials.

Delivers King Husayn's Message

JN0907120989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received a message from the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, about current Arab issues and relations between the two countries.

The message was delivered by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir during his reception by his highness the UAE president.

Concludes Visit, Departs 9 Jul

JN0907140589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Jul (WAKH)—Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir today left Abu Dhabi following a 2-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. He was seen off by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Muhammad al-Nuhayyan.

Tariq 'Aziz, Perez de Cuellar Hold Talks in Rome
JN0607170389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] United Nations, July 6, INA—U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met today in Rome with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz for discussions of the ongoing efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a negotiated settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict, a U.N. official said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar met in Geneva on Tuesday with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

UN Chief Urged To Pressure Iran Into Direct Talks
JN0607205889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Iraq has urged UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to increase pressure on Iran to make it begin direct negotiations with Iraq on finding a durable peaceful settlement between the two countries.

This came in a statement made to reporters by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, following his meeting in Rome today with Javier Perez de Cuellar. In this statement, 'Aziz said that Iran's refusal to hold face-to-face negotiations with Iraq has been the main obstacle preventing the achievement of progress on resolving the main issues after the Iraq-Iran cease-fire took effect on 20 August.

'Aziz added: When the Iranians refuse to hold direct negotiations with Iraq, this means that they do not want to commit themselves to the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace. He went on to say: We hope that the UN secretary general will enhance his efforts to inform the Iranians of the need to accept direct negotiations involving sitting to the negotiating table.

The foreign minister affirmed that Iran is ignoring international treaties by its refusal to release prisoners of war.

'Aziz Interviewed on Iran, Kurds, Lebanon
JN0907134889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Paris, 9 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, says we are awaiting the emergence of recognizable Iranian leaders, who must show leadership. Only then will it be possible for us to decide whether we can come to terms with Iran.

In an interview with the magazine KULL AL-'ARAB to be published tomorrow—Monday—'Aziz said that before Khomeyni's death and since the cease-fire and his departure, the Iranians have vacillated on reaching a clear, comprehensive, and binding agreement between the two countries. This attitude has been reflected by the Iranian side at the negotiations. We have had no contacts or meetings since Khomeyni's death. Even if a meeting were to take place in the near future, we do not hold out much hope for it.

The foreign minister said he does not know whether a new Iranian leadership will pursue Khomeyni's aggressive, expansionist line. It is still possible that a new leadership will take the same route. It is advisable for us not to take it for granted that with Khomeyni out of the way the Iranian regime has changed. We ought to bear in mind that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, and Ahmed Khomeyni are Khomeyni disciples who have reached power on the bandwagon of his slogans within and outside Iran.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the only achievement thus far has been a cease-fire, beyond which not a single step forward has been made. Even prisoner exchanges—an obligation under international law and conventions—has been rejected by the Iranians. They are using this card in contravention of international conventions and of humanitarian considerations. This only shows that they are not prepared to move ahead and make the truce permanent.

On the visit to the USSR by Iran's Parliament Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the foreign minister said the Soviets owe us an explanation. On arms deliveries to Iran, 'Aziz said Iraq is firmly convinced that these are not justified. If these weapons are defensive, as is said by some, the question arises as to who is threatening Iran. It was Iran that threatened its neighbors over the past 10 years. Only when it was trounced on the battlefield and its military machine destroyed did Iran desist from threatening its neighbors. Replenishing the Iranian war machine is hardly helpful.

Iran now needs reconstruction, development, and better living conditions. There are other, more positive ways to help Iran than by supplying it with arms. Iran has no need for billions worth of weapons as the country is not under any threat. Iran would do better to spend the money on reconstruction, development, and securing bread for the Iranian masses.

On the suspect Western campaign against Iraq over its treatment of the Kurds, Mr 'Aziz explained that the Iraqi Government had decided to build a 30-km security belt along Iraq's border with both Iran and Turkey. All villages within this belt will be removed, and this includes Arab and Kurdish villages in the Governorates of al-Basrah, Maysan, Wasit, Diyala, Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk.

The foreign minister stressed that the Kurds in the autonomy region who were affected by the measure were asked to choose where they wanted to move. None of them was forced to move to southern or central Iraq, and they never moved, he said. [sentence as received]

'Aziz challenged those who propagate these lies to visit Iraq and travel in its center and south to be sure of the truth. He said these inhabitants are threatened by Iran, which threatened them during the war. They paid heavily as a result of the Iranin shelling. In addition to this, the minister said, there are infiltration and sabotage attempts by traitors collaborating with Iran and other parties. Moreover, the conditions in those areas do not meet the requirements of the modern age, for the state cannot secure water and electricity and build a clinic and a road for every village built 3 or 4 centuries ago in the mountains, marshes, or in the al-Basrah Governorate on the Iraq-Iran border.

Mr 'Aziz stressed that the talk about the Kurdish question in the Western media is aimed at creating turmoil and unrest in the region after the war has ended the biggest threat to security and stability in the region—namely, the Iranian threat. Colonialistic and Zionist circles want to maintain this issue, which exists only in the Western media, not Iraq.

Regarding the Lebanese problem, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Syria wants to maintain the situation as it is now because the regime is benefiting politically and materially from it. The price is paid by the Lebanese and the Syrian people, he said.

He said the Syrian regime was forced to accept the Casablanca resolutions as it was unable to face them directly. However, this regime will use all exposed, devious, direct, and indirect methods to sabotage these resolutions.

He expressed the hope that the tripartite Arab committee will draw the correct conclusions as it promised and that it will identify the difficulties and parties responsible for creating them. We hope the committee will do this if the Syrian position continues to be the same, 'Aziz said.

On the Arab Cooperation Council, the minister said the council was established on sound and healthy bases and that the four member states have for many years had good political, economic, and cultural relations as well as a high level of trust, mutual respect, and common action. He expressed the hope that the council will be an efficient and powerful phenomenon in the region over the forthcoming stage.

AL-'IRAQ on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Moscow Visit

JN0907122489 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
1 Jul 89 p 3

[By Mazhar 'Arif: "Political Adventure"]

[Text] No one has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another country. Proceeding from this, it is not my or any other person's right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. However, this formula, which all nations are working toward making into a law of international life, is being explained and dealt with in different ways by Gorbachev's Soviet leadership.

Perestroyka and glasnost—construction and change—are a Soviet concern. However, the Soviet leader, presenter of these theories, was not satisfied with what he was doing inside his own multinational and multi-ethnic country. He sought to export his theories to the Soviets' allies through more than one method.

Trotsky, the theorist of the international 1-day and permament revolution, must be feeling very satisfied in his grave because Gorbachev is now implementing his policy in a political method rather than the weapon method glorified by Trotsky.

Perhaps it is not meaningless that Soviet policy is met with satisfaction in the United States and the West and that the media organs, especially in the capitalist countries, are picturing him as an international star of whom Thatcher once said he will rule the world in 10 years, before Hashemi-Rafsanjani named him the greatest leader of the world in his sermon in Soviet Baku a few days ago.

The motto of the United States and the West, and Hitler's motto previously, of destroying the Soviet Union and fragmenting the socialist countries is no longer preserved in its former aggressiveness—so long as Gorbachev is achieving this motto in the name of perestroyka and glasnost, with all the chaos they have caused inside the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact countries, and others.

Ever since the Lenin era, the Soviets have exercised a sort of guardianship over the national and patriotic movements of the world's peoples and nations. Soviet aid to the independence and liberation states, especially in Asia and Africa, has been linked to the amount of freedom enjoyed by the communist parties in the countries of the two continents and the role of the communists in the national movements of these countries. This Soviet position created many problems for the Soviet Union with a number of countries. Some moved toward the United States and the West out of political shortsightedness. There was a chill in relations between some others and the Soviet Union.

In Gorbachev's era, despite the fact that he has been one of the most outspoken Soviet leaders on international detente and noninterference in the internal affairs of others, his practical policies with his allies and others have nevertheless not provided many countries with comfort and peace of mind.

Gorbachev does not make the Soviets feel indebted to him on the issues of perestroyka and glasnost, because life and nature will take their course regardless of the human objective factor.

Gorbachev was more intelligent than other Soviet leaders when he took the Soviet people's demands into consideration and sought to meet their demands, even if incompletely. He realized that surprises might crop up in the future that would be difficult to control. The Soviet leader combined this with an attempt to export his ideas abroad and to picture perestroyka and glasnost as new theories for the world, that all that has happened in any country is due only to the influence of those ideas, and that those who are late in getting on the train of perestroyka and glasnost should do so before they miss it.

Not everything that has happened in this or that country is due to the influence of reforms in the Soviet Union or to the influence of detente in Soviet-U.S. relations.

Merely concentrating or depending on such analyses constitutes a violation of the laws of life itself. It also constitutes a denial of people's rights and an attack on their free will in choosing their lifestyle.

Many peoples realized their independence in an atmosphere of cold war between the socialist and Western camps. Many countries proceeded down the path of economic, social, and political transformation long before detente in Soviet-U.S. relations came about.

In my personal opinion, the Soviet Union under Gorbachev is behaving in a disrespectful way toward the agreements and treaties that link him to others. To say the least, it is ignoring the presence of agreements and treaties that require discussion among the signatories whenever necessary. It is behaving in a very unfriendly and uncooperative manner in this or the other field. This is what the result of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent Moscow visit expresses in light of the friendship and cooperation treaty between Moscow and Baghdad.

Before that, and to date, the Soviet Union has dealt with Iran, Pakistan, and the Afghan resistance on behalf of Afghanistan.

I see the current Soviet behavior in the man who backed down, after a short period, from separating the party from the government and who combined the CPSU chairmanship with the Supreme Soviet Presidium chairmanship in his person, as opportunist behavior on both the internal and external levels. The results of such behavior on this area are known.

Could Hashemi-Rafsanjani be the Soviet Union's first friend in a region in which the countries have formed friendships on other levels with the Soviet Union? Hashemi-Rafsanjani's past and present do not point to this. He is the hero of the Irangate scandal and the United States' and the West's man, as described many times abroad. He is the winning horse of the U.S. bet for the leadership of Iran after the death of Khomeyni, as was always said of him.

Despite that, Gorbachev gave Hashemi-Rafsanjani what he did not give even the Marxist allies of the Soviet Union. He dealt with the Iranian parliament speaker in a way he would deal with a head of state.

The Soviet leader has projected himself as a good reader of the chain of events in Iran following Khomeyni's death, showed haste by calling Hashemi-Rafsanjani the Iranian president, and thought he achieved an early political victory over the United States.

Basing my judgment on long experience in political writing, I can say that it is a mistake for any politician, particularly one of Gorbachev's caliber, to base his country's policy on appearances and to overlook the principle that no preconceived judgments should be made on situations that have not yet firmed up and that are still liable to change.

After all, I do not know on what Gorbachev depended when he said that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit was made in implementation of a recommendation made by Khomeyni and that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's desire to improve and promote ties with the Soviets was a practical translation thereof.

In the beginning, Gorbachev said that his country wanted to meet the Iranians half way. However, Gorbachev has gone beyond this in his ties with Iran.

I believe that Iran has won, while the Soviets have lost in many ways.

In other words, Iran has obtained all that Hashemi-Rafsanjani demanded and other things not demanded by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, whereas the Soviets got nothing other than the Iranian parliament speaker's description of the Soviet leader as "the leader of the world, not only the leader of the USSR."

I am not going to discuss the Soviet arms deal signed with Iran, which has so far continued to procrastinate on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 with Iraq despite the serious effect of the Soviet action on the present and future of peace in the region, as the Soviets, who acted as an arms trader overlooking that they are a state bound by an ideology, previously supplied Iran with weapons through third parties during years of war with Iraq. Now the Soviets are giving the official character to their assistance to Iran.

Nor shall I tackle other issues contained in the USSR-Iranian agreement, such as the issues pertaining to nuclear reactors, navigation lines, railroads, and the issue of Iranian gas pipelines to Europe through Soviet territory.

No, I am going to tackle other aspects that are viewed in comparison with the items contained in the aforementioned Soviet-Iranian agreement as more important than

the billions that will be injected into the Soviet economy by the agreement. I am here referring to the Afghan question and the issue pertaining to religion in the USSR.

I have tackled the Afghan issue in previous articles and referred to it in this article. Hence, I do not need to repeat what I have said several times. Therefore, I will confine myself to discussing the religious issue. I would like to start in the following manner:

Is Hashemi-Rafsanjani, according to the viewpoint of the USSR leadership, a representative of Islam? Was this mistaken viewpoint the reason for the extension of the Iranian parliament speaker's visit so that he could acquaint himself with the life of Soviet Muslims?

If the answer is yes, this would mean that the USSR has given Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Iran a title not conferred upon him and his country by the Islamic Conference Organization. Thus, Gorbachev's decision would be viewed as a miscalculated political adventure by the Soviet leader.

Hence, the Soviet Union is suffering from religious as well as national problems. PRAVDA in particular has admitted the existence of these problems several times during recent years and months. This proves the failure of Marxism in solving the questions of religion and nationality after 72 years of the Communist Party's rule in the Soviet Union.

By allowing Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit some (Islamic) Soviet republics, the Soviet Union ignored the principle that it stresses as important in international relations—noninterference in any country's internal affairs by another. Hashemi-Rafsanjani poked his nose into the affairs of an independent state, the Soviet Union; this is a precedent that will not help the Soviet Union. Thus, the Soviets offered, all at once, concessions to the Iranians for free and without guarantees on the questions of Afghanistan and religion. This is acceptable neither in the law of national sovereignty nor in international law.

Iran, which gave the world the impression that the results of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit settled its position with the Soviet Union, is the same Iran that asks for Pakistan's mediation to improve and develop its relations with the United States. In addition to that, some of its officials began to make more statements on the importance of and need for cooperation between Iran and the West after that visit.

It seems that what the Soviets offered on their dining tables was not appetizing to the Iranians. The statements concerning the superiority of U.S. and Western technology over that of the Soviet Union proved that.

Therefore, I said at the beginning of this article that it is not my right, or the right of others, to intervene in the Soviet Union's internal affairs. However, I have to say after all that I have said about the details of the Iranian-Soviet agreement, particularly regarding weapons, that what is happening between Tehran and Moscow is no longer a purely internal Soviet affair but one that concerns Iraq, which has a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. It is also the party that was subjected to aggression for 8 years and with which Iran still refuses to achieve comprehensive peace on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598. This also concerns the states in the region and the issue of regional and international peace.

In its recent agreement with Iran, the Soviet Union is playing the role of the fireman who stokes the fire instead of the role it must play—the fireman who puts out the fire.

The Soviet Union must not have ignored many facts in entering into a broad agreement with Iran. I have mentioned some of these, which are related to the Iranians and especially Hashemi-Rafsanjani's political history, positions, and status in the power struggle after Khomeyni's death in which he and other Iranian officials are involved. Some of these facts are also related to the whole of the Iranian reality, the positive or negative relationship of each side with government, and the relationship of each of these sides with the outside. Therefore, it is difficult to speculate on any of these sides while ignoring the others or to play down the importance of any side's internal and external influence. The other facts, which are related to Iraq, the Arabs, and the position of every party in the region and the world remain the most important.

I do not mean only the geographic location, although the geographic area, irrespective of its size, cannot be viewed in isolation from the geographical map of the surrounding countries and the world map as a whole. In addition to this, I mean the economic and commercial position and the political influence of Iraq and the Arabs in general on the world's economy and trade and their influence on regional and international politics. Any miscalculations by a big power will deprive both this power and world peace of many opportunities for stability, growth, and development.

As an Arab country, Iraq is politically stable and has a dynamic economy. This is a shining signal for any big or small power to share joint interests with it. Such a signal does not come from Iran, and the world community, including the Soviet Union, bears witness to this.

Technically speaking, as a member of the Arab Cooperation Council, Iraq is four states in one. In an even broader since, Iraq comprises part of the Arab League states with the exception of Syria, the ally of the Iranians. Iraq's economy is that of a developed country, of four countries, and of the Arab world at large. The Iraqi market is active and useful; it is the market of four Arab countries, and even the market of all the Arabs.

When weighing economic and trade benefits, therefore, nations other than the Soviet Union will find that the balance favors Iraq and the Arabs, not Iran or Israel.

Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union understands all these facts. However, it seems to have jumped over them, mortgaging the interests of the Afghan people to the Iranians and giving Iran the green light to interfere in the affairs of the (Islamic) Soviet republics, on which Iran continues to have territorial claims. This argument is not made less plausible by the fact that the joint Iranian-Soviet communique issued after Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow and other USSR cities says that (both sides) agreed on the principle of non-interference by any party in the internal affairs of the other.

What are the expected results of the Soviet-Iranian agreement in so far as the region's states and the other world countries are concerned?

The main expected result, indeed a certainty, is that Iran will use the agreement against the principle of negotiations with Iraq and maintain the threat of resuming the war against it.

The first Iranian use of the agreement against the Arabs was Iran's formal announcement that it will seek to incite a new wave of violence and sabotage in Mecca during the Hajj season.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's ambitions remained stronger than those of (Ayatollah) Gorbachev. And it will not be long before the so-called (Soldiers of God) emerge in Afghanistan or in the Soviet republics of Azerbaijan or Uzbekistan in the name of brotherhood with (Soviet Muslims and Marxists), which is now standing on shaky ground.

Labor To Take Steps To Dissolve Government

TA1007101789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] The decision of the Alignment ministers forum states that in the wake of the Likud Central Committee resolution, which harmed the peace initiative, there is no point in preserving the present government and steps should be taken to dissolve it. The decision calls for convening the Labor Central Committee in order to discuss this recommendation. This is how Shim'on Peres phrased the proposed resolution, which was subsequently adopted by a majority of votes:

[Begin Peres recording] The Labor Party Bureau and its Knesset faction determined that in the wake of the Likud Central Committee resolution, which harmed the chances of the government's peace initiative, there is no room for the continued existence of the government under the present conditions. The bureau recommends that the Labor Central Committee be convened in order to discuss this recommendation. [end recording]

This is the situation at the moment. The proposal was adopted with 45 votes in favor, 2 against, and 6 abstentions.

Decision Termed 'Mistake'

TA1007111789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] We have the first reaction of the Prime Minister's Office to the Labor Party statement. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

The Prime Minister's Office has said that the Labor Bureau's decision is a mistake. By this decision, the Alignment is playing into the Arabs' hands. So far, no Arab element has given even a hint of a positive reply to the peace initiative; the Alignment's action frees the Arabs from the need to respond to the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

The Prime Minister's Office stresses again that the government's peace initiative remains valid. If the Alignment persists along the line launched at today's bureau meeting, there will be no alternative and early elections, which the country does not need at this hour, will have to be held. What the country needs now is national unity, added the Prime Minister's Office. We see no cause to disrupt this national unity and to cast the nation into an election war at this time.

Government Resolution Binding

TA1007090089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] In an initial reaction to the statements by Peres and Rabin at the Labor Party Bureau meeting, Prime Minister's Office Director Yosi Ahime'ir told our political correspondent Arye Golan that demanding a public promise from the prime minister that the initiative is alive and well is similar to demanding that he declare publicly that his name is Yitzhaq Shamir. What binds the cabinet is the resolution concerning the initiative as it was adopted by the government.

Peres Cited on Decision

TA0907084789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Jul 89 pp A1, 2

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has decided that the Alignment should withdraw from the coalition. "The countdown has begun," he said yesterday to a private circle, adding: "I do not intend to stay in a government that lies to the whole world. I do not intend to continue my partnership with people who do not honor their word to the Alignment."

According to Peres, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had promised him and Defense Minister Rabin that as long as there is no need for it, everyone will avoid elaborating on the components of the initiative. Only if the need arose in negotiations with the United States on the framework of the elections would the cabinet meet for a debate and decision on these matters. According to Peres' understanding, the Likud Central Committee's decision, and the pledge undertaken by its representatives in the cabinet to act accordingly, means that this business has already been settled. The Alignment therefore has nothing more to seek in the cabinet. Peres believes that the Likud's resolution has killed the chance of launching a peace move. "This was the only reason for our joining the cabinet," said Peres. "This is the only reason why I agreed to forgo rotation, even though the balance of power [in the Knesset] was 40 to 39. First they strangled the Jordanian option, now they are doing the same with the Palestinian option. They will consequently leave us with only the PLO option.

"There is no point sitting in the cabinet with Rabin being portrayed as the man responsible for the intifadah [uprising], and me being portrayed as the person responsible for unemployment, and all the while we have no way of assuming responsibility for peace," the finance minister told a group of intimates in a private meeting.

Peres' associates later confirmed that he has indeed decided to take action to pull his party out of the coalition. They noted, however, that he has not yet decided on the timing or the way to effect the move.

Shahal Supports Split

TA0907124389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] [Energy] Minister Moshe Shahal says that in tomorrow's Labor Party Bureau meeting in Jerusalem he will recommend seceding from the cabinet at once. In an interview with the Voice of Israel, Minister Shahal said that the braces [the four points appended to the plan by right-wing Likud ministers] added by Ministers Levi and Sharon to the government initiative were designed to torpedo the peace plan. As long as these braces remain in place, Minister Shahal said, the Labor Party has no reason to stay in such a cabinet.

He added that the prime minister cannot say one thing in his party forum and another in the cabinet, because the entire world, including the Arabs, looks on and listens to his remarks.

Shamir Interviewed on Bus Attack, Labor Split

TA0807110489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by David Essing; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] It [the 6 July bus attack on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway] is an extremely outrageous attack of fanatical people. There could be only some preventive measures taken against such acts, and we are discussing it now. We are examining various ways to act against such surprising violent acts although it's very difficult to find means that could prevent entirely such events.

[Essing] The police minister, Hayim Bar-Lev, for one has brought up the possibility of imposing the death penalty again. This has been discussed in the past. What is your position today, prime minister, on imposing the death penalty?

[Shamir] I think that we have to discuss it.

[Essing] Will you be raising what's to be done with the death penalty at the next cabinet meeting, or one of the future cabinet meetings?

[Shamir] I cannot say now when and in which instance we will discuss it, but we will discuss it in the very near future.

[Essing] What about the possibility of restricting the movements of Palestinians from the territories, their movements inside Israel proper?

[Shamir] It's a very complicated problem. I don't think this is the solution, but we are discussing also this aspect of it.

[Essing] We heard today that Abu-Sharif, one of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's top advisers, said that this attack was what he called a human and natural reaction. What is your response to this, sir?

[Shamir] Well, this response reflects the very inhuman and unnatural approach to human life by the people of the PLO because nobody could imagine that in any confrontations like that, there could be any justification for such acts. I would say that this statement of Abu-Sharif is very normal and very natural in reflecting the character of this movement.

[Essing] In your speech to the Likud Central Committee this week you spoke very emphatically about Israel putting down the uprising in the territories. Do you envisage tougher steps now? Will you be calling on the defense forces to take tougher measures?

[Shamir] We are taking, I think, the appropriate measures, and in handling such a situation there must be a constant examination of the necessary means that have to be taken in the changing conditions. I think that the measures we are taking now are efficient. Maybe in the near future we will have to change it. What we hope is that we will not need to discuss anymore these problems in the near future, and we will get a situation in which it will not be any more necessary, because it is our impression that more and more people in the areas of Gaza, Samaria, and Judaea understand now that these violent ways don't lead to anything. I feel that more and more people understand that the peace proposals coming from us are after all the only acceptable way that could lead to an outcome.

[Essing] But on your peace proposals, Prime Minister: Since you made your speech to the Likud Central Committee you have, of course, come under very sharp attack from the Labor Party. Party leader Peres has, in fact, said that you gave in to Ari'el Sharon's dictates. What's your reaction to that?

[Shamir] It's entirely not true. It's a false description of what happened in our convention. It is a fact that our convention confirmed entirely and fully the peace initiative, as it was decided and accepted by the cabinet and by the Knesset. Nobody proposed to change anything included in this initiative, and it was not the intention of anybody in this convention to try to impose on the Israeli Government any changes in the peace initiative that was decided in the cabinet. We have discussed and taken resolutions about various ideological problems, ideological and political issues, that maybe will influence the developments in the peace process in the future, but these positions are related to questions which so far have not been discussed in the government.

[Essing] But adding them on as a resolution and saying that Likud representatives—you yourself will be bound by them—do these not turn out to be prior conditions, in fact, to what's going to happen in the peace process?

[Shamir] It's not a question of prior positions and prior conditions, but there are some positions of a political party that are well-known to the members of this party. For instance, those problems that are connected to the sovereignty of Jerusalem, or the unity of Jerusalem, and the creation of centers of Israeli population in the territories, or what concerns the Israeli borders in the future. These are principles. It doesn't exclude the possibility that the Arab side in the negotiations will be entitled to propose other solutions.

[Essing] But Defense Minister Rabin, who has also been promoting the peace initiative very closely with you, says there can only be one interpretation to your position to ending the intifadah [uprising] before the peace process begins.

[Shamir] We say that the formal negotiations about the implementation of the peace initiative will not take place together, or at the same time, with violent attacks against Israel. There could be many talks of all kinds with Arabs and other foreigners, or representatives of other governments, but formal negotiations about the concrete implementation of the peace initiative will take place only after the violence will come to an end.

[Essing] So this does not rule out contacts, as you say?

[Shamir] We have to continue these contacts with Palestinians, with Arab countries, with Europeans, with the U.S. Government, and I think that we will have to now, in the near future even, to advance these contacts and to multiply them.

[Essing] But, Prime Minister Shamir, the Palestinians in the territories, their initial reaction has been that you haven't left anything for them. What is in it for them after your speech to the Likud Central Committee?

[Shamir] It has not changed anything in our announced peace initiative. We invite them, we invite Arab countries, and the Palestinian Arabs, to a process of negotiations with us, a process of two stages for the Palestinian Arabs: Negotiations about the interim arrangements based on the self-rule concept, and then the second stage, negotiations about the permanent solution. We will continue our contacts with Arab countries, inviting them to change the character of the existing hostile relations with Israel.

[Essing] And what about the United States? It has been upgrading its contacts with PLO representatives. Did this influence your adding on the four amendments at the Likud Central Committee meeting?

[Shamir] We are very opposed, very strongly opposed, to any talks with the PLO. We think that these talks are weakening the chances of getting negotiations with the local Palestinian Arabs. I wouldn't say that it has an influence on the discussions in the Likud Central Committee, but of course it has an impact.

[Essing] And you are again calling on the United States to end these contacts?

[Shamir] Sure, we call upon the United States to interrupt these talks with the PLO because it's very harmful to the peace process.

[Essing] Your personal prestige, Prime Minister—after the confrontation with Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i over this past week, and your speech in the central committee, some people are wondering if you are going to be able to conduct your own foreign policy, a viable foreign policy; if you are going to be looking over your shoulder all the time at Ari'el Sharon.

[Shamir] It's nonsense. I have the support of a very great majority in the Likud, and there is no doubt about it. What I have said and what I have proposed to the convention are my convictions and my views as I see the ideology and philosophy of the Likud, and I think I gave to these views and to this ideology the appropriate and authentic expression.

[Essing] But you yourself have said that with your initiative as is, you put the ball in the Arabs' court, you improved Israel's standing with the international community, you have improved Israel's image in the United States. Why did you have to do it now?

[Shamir] Well, nothing changed in this tactic. We are waiting now, we expect the acceptance by the Arab factors of the principles of our initiative. After they accept the principles we will go into a discussion about the details, but we have not yet got anything of their acceptance of anything that the meaning of it will be the acceptance of our peace initiative.

[Essing] What will be the implications if the Labor Party does decide to pull out of the national unity government?

[Shamir] Well, I think it will be bad for our country and for our people. I am convinced, I am deeply convinced, that in the existing situation—the security conditions of our country, the international situation, the economic difficulties—it is absolutely necessary to maintain the national unity and the national unity government. It's not the time for splits, it's a time for unity, and I think that if the Labor will decide to do it, they will pay for it in the coming political confrontations.

[Essing] At the polls, or would you form a narrow coalition?

[Shamir] I think that in such a case the most reasonable way will be further elections, but to have elections now in Israel, less than a year after the last elections, it's very unreasonable, and I think it will jeopardize the situation and conditions of our country.

[Essing] So you would form a narrow coalition?

[Shamir] Well, I don't know what could be the outcome, and therefore it will be a very bad situation.

Cabinet Discusses Bus Attack, Safety Measures

TA0907114989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev announced at the cabinet session that a committee will be established to recommend bus safety measures in order to prevent attacks. Minister Bar-Lev and some other Alignment ministers demanded an unequivocal condemnation of the weekend riots against Arabs and the attack on Shim'on Peres during the funeral in Jerusalem 2 days ago. They emphasized that these attacks might cause a civil war and destroy the peace process.

Our political correspondent reports that Ministers Avner Sciaki of the NRP [National Religious Party] and Yitzhaq Peretz of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] severely criticized remarks by Minister Bar-Lev that the rioters were hot-headed primitive people. The Tehiya faction also expressed reservations about what it termed the police affairs minister's crude assault on an agitated public. Minister Bar-Lev stressed that he stands by his remarks.

In the course of the debate, Ministers Katz-'Oz and Yitzhaq Moda'i clashed after the former stated that the Government of Israel should not turn into a Jewish Defense League. This aroused the anger of Moda'i, who said that for months he has been urging the prime minister to hold a discussion of the handling of the intifadah [uprising]. If the public feels today that the government cannot protect it, there is no doubt that some people will take the law into their hands. This should be prevented, said Minister Moda'i.

Another discussion was held among the ministers on whether Arabs should present their identity cards upon boarding a bus. Some ministers claimed that such a move would be interpreted as discrimination against Arabs. Minister Peres said that such scrutiny would not have helped in the case of the attack on the bus. Minister Moda'i, on the other hand, said that perhaps the terrorist would have lost his nerve had he been asked to show his papers. The defense minister said that if drivers at the central bus depot suspect someone, they must immediately alert the security officers.

Minister Ari'el Sharon says that there is no truth to the contention that the import of the Likud Central Committee's vote is that the Likud as a whole supports the prime minister's initiative, and that no change has taken place in it. Minister Sharon criticized Foreign Minister Arens' statement to the Egyptian ambassador in Israel that the peace initiative, as adopted by the cabinet, is not only still valid, but has furthermore been strengthened by the Likud Central Committee vote. Our political correspondent Arye Golan says that in the course of the cabinet session Minister Sharon said: We must tell the truth to our foes, our friends, and most importantly to ourselves. It is inconceivable that the Likud currently unanimously supports the peace initiative without insisting on honoring the binding principles on which it decided. Sharon emphasized that the general support was solely for the initiative with the restricting clauses appended to it.

Cabinet Briefed on Bus Incident

TA0907174889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] It was reported at the cabinet meeting today that last week there were seven cruel murders of people regarded as collaborators with Israeli authorities. In a defense briefing the ministers were told that those murdered are not all known to the authorities and that they were liquidated in the context of settling internal accounts in the territories.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan adds that the cabinet was informed of increased incitement of terrorist acts and demonstrations in the territories on the eve of the Fatah conference in Tunis, which is set to take place during the 2d half of July. Last week's bus incident was defined as the gravest since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising]. The terrorist, who originally refused to cooperate with his interrogators, later said he was furious since a wounded friend of his was barred from leaving for treatment abroad.

World Insensitivity Condemned

TA0907132489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the cabinet very strongly condemns the horrid crime of the bus attack, as well as the fact that elements outside Israel have not shown sufficient sensitivity toward it. The prime minister also said that the cabinet condemns irresponsible acts carried out by embittered Jews. Such things must not happen. All they cause is damage, and they should be prevented. The same is true with regard to acts against government representatives at funerals. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister made these remarks at the conclusion of the cabinet discussion of the bus attack.

The cabinet sent condolences to families of those killed in the bus attack and wishes for speedy recovery for the wounded. It called on the leadership and the public to maintain composure and common sense.

Commentary on 'Sick' Attack

JN0707155689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1340 GMT 7 Jul 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Regardless of what has been learned and will be learned about the background of the culprit whose hands yesterday perpetrated the ugly and

inhuman crime against the unarmed civilians riding the Egged bus, what is certain is that he is sick. Diagnosing his sickness does require specialists. It is a well known psychiatric illness with the following well known symptoms:

—The patient loses all human feelings and sentiments and turns into a barbarous beast in his behavior and thinking, although he has the appearance of a human being.

—The patient is most often the victim of a brainwashing process conducted by dens tasked with the dissemination of poisonous hatred among peoples and religions.

Sometimes, it happens that these dark dens supply the culprit with a forged indulgence or a forged passport entitling him to be a member of the bloody [PLO] committee.

There is one more thing that is certain: Whoever displays happiness or jubilation over the perpetration of such inhuman and terrorist acts must himself be afflicted with the same abominable disease. The same goes for anyone who tries to justify through any twisted or unequivocal means yesterday's crime and the like.

'Arafat's organization exposed its ugly, disgusting terrorist and criminal face when its spokesman, Abu-Sharif, who is also known as Yasir 'Arafat's chief adviser, attempted yesterday to justify the horrendeous crime. Be it as it may, there are a number of basic, accomplished facts that the Palestinians and others must be aware of and understand. The first is that Israel—government and people—will not yield to terrorism. Moreover, yesterday's crime, like previous terrorist crimes, will not make the Israeli people budge a hairbreadth in their faith and readiness to sacrifice their lives to defend themselves, their homeland, and their inalienable rights.

The second fact is that the hundreds and thousands of terrorist and barbarous crimes perpetrated on behalf of the Palestinians will not advance even by a fingertip a solution to their problem. Salvation will materialize neither through violence and terrorism nor at the hands of the organizations of killers, sabotage, and terrorism. This is the path of destructive negativism for which the Palestinians have paid a heavy price since the beginning of this century, beginning with the days of the mufti [Mufti Amin al-Husayni]; the days of Ahmad al-Shuqayri; and ending with the days of Yasir 'Arafat and other leaders of the organizations of killers, sabotage, and terrorism. History is replete with cogent proofs confirming that the path of terrorism and violence has not only failed to produce a solution to the Palestinians' problems but has sabotaged the chances for a solution, inflicted harm on the Palestinians in general, and tarnished their image and cause.

If one seeks to know what the Palestinian people achieved from the bloody crime committed yesterday, he must know that this objectionable crime has blackened the image of the Palestine question and stained the face of that question in mud and blood—the blood of the victims; the blood of the defenseless civilian children, women, and elderly.

Suspect's Home Destroyed

TA0907134389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] At noon the security forces demolished the home of the family of 'Abd-al-Hadi Sulayman Ghunaym in al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that it is the 26-year-old Ghunaym who perpetrated the terror attack on the bus last Thursday.

'Text' of Islamic Jihad Statement on Bus Attack

JN0907171589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1635 GMT 9 Jul 89

["Text" of statement by the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine; date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine announces its responsibility for the act of martyrdom that one of the heroes of the aspirers-to martyrdom forces has carried out against an American Zionist bus on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway.

The Islamic Jihad Movement warns the Zionist Jews and the Americans that the Muslim blood that is shed daily will not go to waste. We affirm that we will continue along the course of jihad and martyrdom until the liberation of Palestine, all of Palestine from the sea to the river, no matter how great the sacrifices. We also warn the invader occupiers against the consequences of harming our hero struggler who was destined by fate to fall into captivity.

This is a jihad for the sake of God until victory or martyrdom. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Islamic Movement for the Liberation of Palestine

2d Statement Issued

NC0707151489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] In a second statement, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has claimed responsibility for the operation that involved an Israeli bus on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road in which 14 persons were killed and 27 were injured.

The Islamic Jihad Organization—Bayt al-Maqdis—had claimed responsibility earlier in Amman for this operation but did not give any details.

A hand-written statement by the Islamic Jihad in Palestine was received by a Western news agency in Beirut. The statement said: Our aim is to unconditionally repel the occupation. Let Shamir and his election plan go to hell.

'Surprise, Anger' Over U.S. Reaction to Attack

TA0907045789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Senior officials in Jerusalem last night expressed surprise and anger at the U.S. failure to define Thursday's bus attack as an act of terror. The officials said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens would weigh Israel's response today and did not rule out the lodging of a formal protest.

The officials explained that although the State Department condemned the attack on the bus it refrained from labelling it "terror." The officials believe this stems from the PLO's failure to condemn the act, for if the U.S. were to define the attack as terror, the PLO's non-condemnation would violate the conditions under which Washington is holding its dialogue with the PLO. The officials added that the U.S. sensitivity to its dialogue with the PLO appears to have "gone far beyond the bounds of decency and common sense."

Arens was considering sending a strong protest to the U.S. over its failure to regard the act as terrorism, the officials said, noting that even Moscow's Hebrew-language radio service had referred to the attack as "terrorism against innocent people."

Arens Voices 'Displeasure'

TA0907163989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Israel today relayed to the United States its displeasure with the U.S. reaction to the bus attack. This afternoon, Foreign Minister Arens summoned U.S. Ambassador William Brown and informed him that Israel is unable to understand how the State Department spokesman has been evading terming the murder of the bus passengers explicitly as a terrorist act.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Arens told the ambassador that the PLO long ago violated all the conditions the administration had posed for a dialogue with that organization. He quoted the remarks of Bassam Abu-Sharif, who said after the bus attack that the terrorist's deed was a natural human reaction.

The foreign minister reminded his interlocutor that at the outset of the dialogue with the PLO, the United States demanded that the PLO publicly condemn terrorist acts perpetrated by other organizations and punish those responsible.

U.S. Proposal on East Jerusalem Rejected

TA0907074289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yaqir Tzur, Dalya Refa'el, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Secretary of State James Baker said in Brunei on Friday that the restricting, stiff conditions the Likud had decided on regarding elections in the territories will make moves to attain peace in the Middle East more difficult. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a U.S. proposal has been raised to bypass the problem of elections in East Jerusalem by appointing—rather than electing—an accepted representation of East Jerusalem residents to serve on the Palestinian body that will be elected to conduct negotiations with Israel. This U.S. proposal, which has been raised recently by U.S. diplomats in unofficial meetings with political circles in Jerusalem, suggests that the inhabitants of East Jerusalem will be compensated for not participating in the elections by being given double representation on the elected body.

The Prime Minister's Office reacted to this proposal by saying that the prime minister had explained in no uncertain terms, as far back as when the political initiative was first introduced, that Jerusalem will remain outside the autonomy. Any East Jerusalem resident who might wish to be elected could move outside Jerusalem. "All sorts of ideas are being tossed around, but the Americans know very well the position of Israel regarding Jerusalem," was the reaction of the Prime Minister's Office. [passage omitted]

Senior U.S. Delegation To Promote Initiative

TA0907190189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] A high-level U.S. delegation will arrive in Israel in 10 days to examine the possibility of promoting the peace initiative in the wake of the Likud Central Committee's resolutions. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned that the delegation will be headed by Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. He will be accompanied by John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; and Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. State Department's Policy Planning Staff. Our political correspondent has further learned that the aim of the delegation is to examine the ability and will of the prime minister and the government to advance the peace initiative in the wake of the Likud Central Committee's decisions.

Over the past 24 hours, senior U.S. Administration officials have tried to talk Alignment leaders into putting off a Labor Party decision on seceding from the government. In talks with Alignment leaders they are imploring that the decision on leaving the government be delayed until the picture clears up in the coming weeks. Our

correspondent has also learned that the idea to urgently dispatch the high-level delegation to Israel comes in the wake of the Likud Central Committee's convention last week and the U.S. Administration's assumption that an immediate step should be taken to move the peace initiative forward.

IDF Conducts Operation in Southern Lebanon

TA1007113889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] There was a combined IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation north of the security zone in Lebanon today. The operation was in the framework of an initiated action against terrorist deployment. Our correspondent Roni Daniyyel reports that the force completed its task this afternoon and returned to the security zone. There were no Israeli casualties.

The operation began this morning. A combined IDF force, comprised of Infantry, artillery, and tanks, entered the Khallat al-Wazzalah district north of the security zone to foil the deployment of Hizballah terrorists. The force arrested suspects and brought them in for interrogation. Leaflets warning the local residents against cooperating with the terrorists were disseminated in the area.

'Anti-Arab Violence' in Jerusalem, Territories

TA0907044889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpts] There were more instances of attacks by Jews on Arabs yesterday, with the focus in Jerusalem. The details from Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] Jerusalem police arrested 15 Israelis yesterday during a wave of anti-Arab violence in the capital. Youths continued to gather throughout the night in the Ge'ula neighborhood, and the police used tear gas to disperse them. Dozens of demonstrators, led by Kakh activists, also took to the streets in the Shemu'el Hanavi neighborhood. Shouting: Death to the Arabs, they hurled stones and bottles at Arab cars. At least two vehicles were damaged. A large crowd from Shemu'el Hanavi also threw stones at the house of left-wing Knesset Member Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement, shouting: Death to Zucker. In another incident, stones were thrown at a camera crew from the American network CNN. Two Arab cars were set on fire last night in Jerusalem, one in the Romema neighborhood, and one in al-Tur on the Mount of Olives. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 9 July in a page 1 report by Michal Sela further reports on anti-Arab attacks in Jerusalem and the territories, adding: "Late last night police had to use tear gas to disperse screaming stone-throwing youngsters swarming around the area surrounding the site of the former Mandelbaum Gate on the seam between East and West Jerusalem." The article also reports that in the Gaza Strip, settlers from Gush Qatif "yesterday gathered at the entrance of al-Nusayrat refugee camp, the home of the Palestinian responsible for Thursday's bus calamity. Soldiers prevented the settlers from entering the camp, which has been under curfew since two days before the attack."] [passage omitted]

The Sha'are Tiqva settlement in Samaria has decided to close its gates to Arab workers for the next several days. The settlement says this is to prevent attacks on Arabs. The atmosphere was stormy yesterday at Sha'are Tiqva during the funeral of a settlement member killed in Thursday's bus attack. [end recording]

Further on Deaths, Incidents in Territories

Suspected Collaborators Killed

TA0807101989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Mustafa 'Abd-Sa'id, 45, of Gaza died after being shot in the head last night. His body was transferred to a hospital in the town. Gazans said that Sa'id was known as a drug dealer, and for helping the authorities.

Muhammad al-Khashi, of the village of Yattah south of Hebron, was also shot dead last night. The army and the police are investigating. This incident also apparently involved someone suspected of assisting Israel.

1 Killed in West Bank 9 Jul

TA0907123289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] 'Aynan Jamil Hamad, 20, was shot and killed in the Tulkarm District village of Ramin. He was brought to a Nabulus hospital where he died of his injuries. The army is investigating the report.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that another seriously wounded youth was brought to al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

Other Incidents Reported

TA0907173589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] This afternoon an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured by a sharp object fired at him by a sling. This took place in the township of Bayt Jala near Bethlehem. The soldier was transferred to Jerusalem Hadassah Hospital for treatment.

A general strike was staged in the territories today to mark the 20th month of the uprising. The strike was initiated by the Unified National Command of the Uprising and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and residents of the territories have complied in full. Disturbances and clashes between soldiers and youths occurred in several places during the strike. We have

already reported about the wounded soldier. In addition, at least two more wounded Arabs have been reported at the 'Askar and Tulkarm refugee camps.

During the day, reports emanated from Nabulus about two people killed in incidents with soldiers. 'Aynan Jamil Hamad was killed in the village of Ramin in the Tulkarm district. A senior officer left for the village to check out the report of his death. Another report emanated from the village of Madama in the Nabulus area. Local villagers said that Fayiz Yusuf, 21, was shot dead. His friends buried him in the village; the IDF is checking this report since no body can be found.

Anti-Jordan leaflets have begun appearing in Nabulus mosques in recent days. The leaflets, signed by Hamas, contain a strong denunciation of the ceremonies and celebrations taking place in Jordan these days to mark the great Arab uprising launched by King Husayn's grandfather, King 'Abdallah. For the first time, a call to ban Jordan television broadcasts has been voiced. It seems that Jordan has paid back in kind, though. Residents who returned from Jordan lately report a stiffer attitude toward residents of the territories who have overenthusiastically identified themselves with the intifadah [uprising] and disavowed Jordan. These persons' requests are turned down; they are summoned to exhausting interrogations by Jordanian intelligence, and are subject to, quote, humiliating treatment.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1630 GMT on 9 July reports that "during the past hour several residents of the Shmu'el Hanavi neighborhood in Jerusalem have thrown stones at cars bearing license plates from the territories. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the windshield of one of the cars was smashed, and a Palestinian passenger was slightly injured. The police dispersed the rioters with tear gas and deployed vans at the entrances to the neighborhood. The policemen in the vans recommend to the Arabs that they use bypass roads.

"At about 1700 today, two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a Border Police patrol traveling through the Abu Tor neighborhood in Jerusalem. The bottles smashed and ignited on the road, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. One of those who threw the Molotov cocktails was caught and detained."]

'Official Source' Denies Arms Sent to Lebanon

JN0907125489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An official source has affirmed that Jordan has never been a route for weapons sent to Lebanon. The source said that since the outset of the Gulf war in 1980, al-'Aqabah port has been considered a terminal for Iraq's trade, in addition to military hardware. The source said the Iraqi weapons that reach al-'Aqabah are in most cases heading for maintenance in the manufacturing states. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Leaves for Damascus 9 Jul

JN0907163889 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir left Amman this afternoon for Damascus to head the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Syrian higher committee, which starts its meetings tonight.

In the 2-day meetings, the committee will discuss means of cooperation between the two countries, especially in marketing and manufacturing of agricultural products, in addition to joint projects. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim on Likud Amendments to Shamir Plan

JN1007071589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 89 p 1

[By Rania 'Atallah, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's "peace" plan is aimed at wiping out the successes achieved by the new Palestinian peace initiative, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said Sunday.

"Shamir's plan for elections in the (Israel-occupied) West Bank and Gaza Strip is an Israeli attempt to derail the Palestinian peace train," Al-Qasim told reporters shortly after he attended Sunday's session of the fifth Jordanian expatriate conference. "It was put forth (to spike) the success achieved by Palestinian diplomacy on the international scene," he said.

The Shamir plan calls for elections to be held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to choose Palestinians to negotiate an interim settlement with Israel. Recent amendments made to the plan by Shamir's Likud bloc rule out any role for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in negotiations, insist on an end to the Intifadah [uprising] and exclude Arab Jerusalem Palestinians from the voting process.

Addressing conference participats earlier Sunday [9 July], Al-Qasim said that if Israel wants to negotiate peace it has to do so with the PLO. No solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict can be arrived at if the PLO does not play the main part in the equation, he stressed.

"There will be no successful attempt (at solving the Arab-Israeli conflict) unless the PLO makes the decision on behalf of Palestinians... there will be no Jordanian option," Al-Qasim said.

The foreign minister said the Palestinian peace diplomacy, embodied in the PLO's recognition of Israel and its renunciation of terrorism, had put both the U.S. and Israel in an "embarrassing" position. The U.S. reacted by opening a dialogue with the PLO and thus added support to the positive Palestinian initiative, al-Qasim said.

The East-West detente has removed past American objections to the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East, al-Qasim said. "The only remaining obstacle is Israel," he said.

Al-Qasim explained that the "healthy" situation emanating from international support of the PLO's peace initiative was a result of Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

"The disengagement decision was aimed at holding the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict responsible towards each other and to make them shoulder their respective responsibility," he noted. "It also marked the end of a phase during which Jordan was falsely accused of competing with others to represent the Palestinian people," Al-Qasim said.

In effect, he said, the PLO has taken on its responsibility, and the resulting situation is one upon which peace can be built.

Ever since the July 1988 disengagement decision, Jordan and the PLO have enjoyed the "best and clearest" relations, the deputy prime minister said.

He urged Palestinians not to reject the principles of elections, but added that such elections should be held under international supervision and should come as part of an overall process that would acheive self-determination for Palestinians.

"Say yes to elections that would lead to the achievement of (Palestinian) legitimate rights," he said.

The foreign minister said that Jordan, which was a member of the now-defunct six-member Arab League committee on Lebanon, believes in the need to reassess the political rights of all the Lebanese communities.

"The Lebanese should be assisted in reorganising their country in the context of a new equation... they should be given the chance to reach that equation, far from fear and killings... they are all convinced of the need to do away with political secterianism," Al-Qasim said.

Lebanon should not be turned into a troublespot that can be easily exploited, he said. That is the reason behind His Majesty King Husayn's suggestion to send an Arab peacekeeping force to Lebanon that would pave the way for political reconciliation among various factions in the war-torn country, he said.

Al-Qasim Says Soviets Made 'Hasty' Decision

JN0907163589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1516 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Amman, 9 Jul (INA)—Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has called the Soviet arms supplies to Iran a new Soviet position.

Answering a question from a participant in the fifth conference of Jordanian expatriates, the foreign minister said we are more concerned about the political than the military shift.

Making weapons available to a nation that still regards the military solution as an option in dealing with other countries is extremely serious.

He stressed that the matter is serious in view of the fact that agreement has not yet be reached on a final settlement. The USSR made a hasty decision, he added.

Al-Qasim hoped pressure will be applied in earnest toward stabilizing the ceasefire and the peace. Iraq is in a good enough position to secure the best defenses, Al-Qasim said.

Royal Decree Approves Electoral Law Amendment

JN0507152989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—A royal decree has been issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision of 4 July 1989 amending the electoral law.

Jerusalem TV on Martial Law, Political Parties

JN0707122089 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Martial law might be abrogated and a multiparty system might be sanctioned in Jordan so that parties can participate in the parliamentary elections that will be held at the end of this year. This was stated by the Jordanian interior minister at a news conference in Amman today.

It is noteworthy that martial law has been enforced in Jordan since the 6-day [June 1967] war.

Asked if the inhabitants of the Palestinian camps can participate in elections, the minister said they are entitled to vote and run for election.

Interior Ministry Source on Electoral Law

JN0507164189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] An Interior Ministry source has stated that in accordance with the Council of Ministers' decision of 4 July to amend the electoral law, the House of Representatives has been increased from 72 seats to 80. The article on setting the electoral districts was amended to view each governorate as a single electoral district with the exception of the Amman Governorate, which was divided into six electoral districts, and the Irbid Governorate, which was divided into five electoral districts.

The amendment also empowers the Interior Minister permanently or temporarily to exclude any of the statements that the personal election card contains.

Under these amendments, the Amman Governorate is allocated 21 seats, an increase of 3; the Irbid governorate 19 seats, an increase of 1; the al-Balqa' Governorate 8 seats, an increase of 1; the al-Zarqa' Governorate 6 seats, an increase of 2; the al-Mafraq Governorate 3 seats, the minimum number allocated to any governorate, with an increase of 1 seat for this governorate. The number of seats in the other governorates and al-Badiyah [Bedouin area] have been maintained as before.

The Interior Ministry source added that population density was the basic yardstick for these increases in the parliamentary seats introduced in the governorates. It has been decided to consider each governorate a single electoral district with the exception of the Amman and Irbid Governorates, given that every deputy represents the entire people. This is the basis in the parliamentary system. From this premise, the rule should be that the state forms one electoral district. However, practical necessities dictate the division into several electoral districts. Under this measure, the administrative divisions and the population density were taken into consideration as a basic yardstick for this division.

The responsible source said that these amendments have taken place following a broad and protracted dialogue with the various sectors of the population, and that this dialogue was characterized by openness and understanding.

Amal, Hizballah Meet; Discuss Agreement

JN0807132789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] A four-way meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry building this morning grouping Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iran's 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and delegations of the Amal Movement and Hizballah, led by Nabih Birri and 'Abbas Musawi. The interlocutors undertook a review of the steps and measures taken by the Amal and Hizballah leaderships toward enforcing the articles of an agreement they signed in Damascus on 30 Jaunary 1989.

Both sides underscored the need for scrupulous adherence to the articles of the agreement, immediate cessation of clashes, and institution of disciplinary measures against the instigators of hostilities in the interests of the nationalist and Islamic camp in Lebanon.

Statement Issued on Incidents

JN0807130889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Following a top-level meeting of the Amal Movement and Hizballah at the Syrian Foreign Ministry building this morning with Ministers Faruq al-Shar' and 'Ali Akbar Velayati also in attendance, Amal leader Nabih Birri and 'Abbas Musawi of Hizballah met again to discuss recent incidents involving men from both sides and how to avert their recurrence. They issued the following statement:

Proceeding from their obligation to enforce an agreement they signed in Damascus on 30 January 1989 and cognizant of the need to foil plots being hatched against the Lebanese people, the two sides voiced their deep distress over the recent unfortunate incidents involving some of their elements. They have reached agreement on the following:

First, full adherence to the articles of the agreement signed by them on 30 January.

Second, institution of measures that should prevent a repetition of armed clashes between them, removal of their causes, and consolidation of their cohesion and cooperation.

Third, formation of a joint commission composed of the Amal Movement and Hizballah to investigate the recent incidents and to take the strictest disciplinary action against their instigators on both sides.

Commitment on Accord

LD0807165389 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, July 8, IRNA—In a session attended by the foreign ministers of Iran and Syria today, leaders of Lebanon's Amal and Hizballah groups issued a joint statement declaring their commitment for the January 30, 1989 unity accord.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is currently in Damascus at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

Amal and Hizballah leaders expressed deep regret over last year's fratricide which was halted by Irano-Syrian efforts, and stressed their determination to thwart plots underway by renegade Michel 'Awn who in collaboration with Zionist and Iraqi regimes is trying to weaken the Muslim resistance.

The two Lebanese parties also pledged to take serious steps to prevent further armed clashes between them, and to weed out the causes of the fratricide.

It was agreed that a joint team be formed to probe the causes of the recent clashes and punish the seditious elements.

At the end of the three-hour session, spokesman of revolutionary movement of Hizballah Sayyid Husayn Musavi (Abu-Hisham) told IRNA that Amal and Hizballah leaders unanimously believed the clashes were initiated by the enemies of Islam.

He said Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers laid stress on the need for unity among Lebanese Muslims and believed that the two groups should fight against the mercenaries of the Zionist regime.

Both Amal and Hizballah are seriously trying to identify and arrest Israeli merceneries and spies, he concluded.

Amal-Hizballah Fighting Resumes 9 Jul

NC0907050889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Following the guarded calm and the return of the situation to normal in the areas of al-Awza' and Harat Hurayk yesterday, fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen erupted anew in al-Ghubayrah, Hayy Farhat, and the airport circle at 0100 today. Machineguns and rockets were used in the clashes.

According to the latest security reports, the clashes between the two sides are still raging.

Continuing Clashes Detailed

NC0907083389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tension continued to prevail in al-Ghubayrah, the airport traffic circle, and Hayy Farhat today in the wake of the clashes that took place between Amal and Hizballah gunmen last night and then continued until morning. From 0600 to 0800 today, violent clashes took place in the area between the Shatila traffic circle and the airport traffic circle. The clashes then took the form of sniper fire directed at residential areas in Bi'r Hasan.

Clash Sites Said Calm

NC0907100889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Complete calm has returned to the areas of al-Ghubayrah, the airport traffice circle, Hamadah Palace, Hayy Farhat, and the Shatila traffic circle after the Syrian forces took complete control of the situation and halted the clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in these areas.

As a result of contacts among the leadership concerned, the joint [Hizballah-Amal] security committee, supported by Syrian forces, went to the tense areas at approximately 1215 and contained the clashes.

Meanwhile, the comprehensive civilian resistance has issued a statement in which it called on the Amal Movement and Hizballah to revert to the Damascus agreement, to implement its clauses, and to adhere to a spirit of cooperation instead of division and estrangement. It also called for the formation of a committee in which Syrian Arab forces will participate in order to investigate the reasons for the recent incidents that took place between Amal and Hizballah and to expose the obstructing party.

The comprehensive civilian resistance denounced the security deterioration and the destruction and devastation it causes to the citizens' property. It called on the two parties to proceed toward the major objectives for which the nationalist and Islamic arena is waiting.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC0907114189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen broke out again in al-Awza'i a short while ago. Machineguns and artillery are being used in the clashes. [passage omitted]

Voice of Lebanon has learned that with Syrian Army support the Amal movement managed to expand from the al-Rasul Mosque area toward areas deep inside the southern suburb. The Syrian Army instituted motorized patrols in the areas of al-Awza'i, al-Maramil, al-Ramlah al-Bayda', and Corniche al-Mazra'ah. According to preliminary reports, the clashes have so far left 7 dead and 26 wounded.

Beirut Crossing Closed

NC0907133889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tension between the Amal Movement and Hizballah continues to prevail on the al-Awza'i Road. The clashes reportedly intensified a short while ago. The Syrian Arab forces are continuing their efforts to contain the clashes.

Amal movement sources said that the Syrian forces are preparing to deploy in the areas of the clashes, bring about the withdrawal of gunmen, and collect weapons. At 1600 the Syrian forces will begin to storm some buildings in the al-Awza'i, al-Maramil, and the airport areas with full powers to close party offices. This is in accordance with the recent agreement signed between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Damascus.

Meanwhile, the al-Barbir-Museum Crossing has been closed after coming under fire from the eastern area shortly after 1500 today.

Clashes Extend; No Cease-Fire

NC0907171489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the areas of al-Maramil and al-Awza'i extended this afternoon to the fringes of Burj al-Barajinah, inflicting several casualties to the ranks of both sides and to civilians. The intensity of the clashes led to the closure of the coastal road to the southern approach of the capital between al-Awza'i and Khaldah and in the al-Jinah-Summerland area. The airport road was declared unsafe.

The area of the fighting expanded at 1815 to include al-Ghubayrah, Hayy Farhat, and the airport bridge. A cease-fire agreement was reached. It was scheduled to go into effect at 1830, but it did not. The sound of rockets and antiarmor and machinegun fire continued to reveberate in parts of the capital and the southern suburb.

Two rockets were fired from Shatila Circle during the battles between Amal and Hizballah. They exploded over the military court building. The Syrian forces there opened bursts of fire and closed the Museum-al-Barbir crossing from 1515 to 1615 this afternoon.

According to preliminary reports, two persons were killed and six others were wounded as a result of the clashes which were resumed this afternoon.

Fighting Ends in Al-Awza'i Area

NC0907172089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The contacts and efforts made by the Security Committee and the Syrian forces have resulted in the cessation of clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the al-Awza'i area. A large Syrian Army force deployed in the area and opened the road between Sultan Ibrahim and Khaldah at 1830 today, in one direction for those entering Beirut. The road leading from Beirut to Khaldah remained closed to traffic.

The al-Awza'i road was closed at 1500 today because of the clashes, leaving thousands of cars between al-Mudawwarah and Khaldah waiting for the road to reopen. Several attempts were made before 1830 to reopen the road, but these attempts failed. The road was opened at 1830 after the Syrian forces deployed between Khaldah and Sultan Ibrahim.

9 Killed in 9 Jul Clashes

NC1007055889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Excerpt] A state of extreme tension reigns over the southern suburb and certain sections of West Beirut following renewed fighting last night between Amal and Hizballah. A total of 9 people were killed and 20 others wounded in the clashes, which were particularly fierce. [passage omitted]

Syrian Naval Units Search Ships, Cruise Area

NC0907055489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] AFP has reported that two Syrian warships and five gunboats have been cruising off the Lebanese coast since Monday [3 July]. The Syrian naval units have been searching the ships heading for East Beirut ports.

Syrian Gunboat Said To Commandeer Boat; 6 Aboard

NC0907065489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] According to security sources, a Syrian gunboat has commandeered a Lebanese boat in the Lebanese territorial waters. There are six people aboard the Lebanese boat.

Forced To Sail to Tartus

NC0907073189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The Syrian Navy commandeered a Lebanese yacht with six Lebanese on board in Lebanese territorial waters this morning. The yacht was forced to sail to Tartus.

Syrian Navy Intercepts Supply Ship

NC0907193689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] The Syrian Navy today resumed its piratical acts in Lebanese territorial waters. After commandeering a Lebanese yacht with six Lebanese on board this morning, the Syrian Navy intercepted a supply ship at noon and forced it to sail to Tripoli. The Syrian naval guns hit a ship called (on oil) which was a few km off the coast.

Israeli Force Reportedly Advances Toward Al-Biqa'

NC1007075989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] According to the Islamic Resistance sources in western al-Biqa', a Zionist armored force consisting of eight armored cars is trying to advance toward the liberated areas of Zillaya and Qilya. Islamic resistance fighters are confronting the invaders while the resistance artillery pieces are bombarding the enemy troop concentrations. The clashes are continuing.

Israeli Reconnaissance Flights Over Sidon, Camps

NC1007080889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] A squadron of Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and nearby camps on reconnaissance sorties this morning.

'Fierce Battles' With Israeli Forces in Zillaya

NC1007091689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0856 GMT 10 Jul 89

[Text] We have just received the following report from the newsdesk:

Fierce battles are currently raging between the devout Islamic resistance fighters and the Zionist enemy force, which is trying to enter the township of Zillaya. A military source in the Islamic resistance said that the mujahidin have forced the enemy to retreat twice. However, the source added, the enemy is now trying once again to enter the town. Residential districts are now coming under Zionist bombardment.

In another development, the general mobiliztion department of the oppressed people has declared a state of alert among the oppressed fighters.

We have been informed that according to the latest reports from the resisting western al-Biqa' that in view of the heroic confrontation demonstrated by the mujahidin of the Islamic resistance, the enemy armored cars are now withdrawing from the battlefield in defeat and disappointment. The artillery pieces of the Islamic resistance are chasing the remnants of the fleeing enemy while the Zionist artillery pieces are bombarding the liberated areas.

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives 6 Jul

JN0707054089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus last night on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', chiefs of the Asia and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and the Embassy staff.

Received by Al-Asad

JN0707114089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Hasan Akhtari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus.

Further on Talks

JN0707161089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Hasan Akhtari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus.

Dr Velayati conveyed to the president greetings from the guide of the Iranian revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i; Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; and the Iranian leadership. The president acknowledged these greetings and asked Velayati to convey his best greetings and good wishes to Ayatollah Khamene'i, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjai, and the Iranian leadership.

Talks dealt with the general situation in the region, the Lebanese developments, and issues of common concern.

More on Meeting

LD0807082689 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT 08 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, July 8, IRNA—Iran's foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held three-hours of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Friday afternoon discussing regional and bilateral issues.

During the meeting also attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a number of Iranian officials, President al-Asad expressed condolences on the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

He said the massive participation of the Iranians in the imam's funeral the thwarted plots of Iran's enemies. [sentence as received]

Al-Asad further said the presence of Iranian people in the political scene and the timely selection of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the new leader of the Islamic Republic strengthened the pillars of the revolution. He said Syria was an ally and friend of Iran was very pleased with the selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The Syrian president called for continious contacts between Iran and Syria, greater cooperation among the progressive countries of the reigion within the framework of the recent trip to Moscow of Iran's Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Velayati is on his third visit to Damascus in the past four months. He arrived Thursday.

He thanked Al-Asad for his sympathy on the imam's demise and briefed him on the latest developments in Iran and the massive support Ayatollah Khamene'i has received.

Meanwhile Velayati held separate talks with Lebanese leaders including head of Lebanon's Amal Movement Nabih Birri, head of the Progressive Socialist Party Walid Jumblatt and members of the Leadership Council of Hizballah, at the Iranian Embassy here Friday.

Each briefed Velayati on the latest developments in Lebanon and pledged support of the Islamic Republic for the anti-Zionist struggle of Lebanese Muslims.

He also reiterated the need for unity among all Lebanese national and Islamic groups.

Meets With PFLP-GC's Jibril

LD0807130689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is visiting Damascus, met and conferred with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, at the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy today.

According to the Central News Unit, at this meeting Ahmad Jibril expressed his condolences over the demise of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, and stated his allegiance to the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

During discussion of the region's issues, Palestine's present situation, and the Muslim uprising in the occupied territories, both sides expressed the need for cooperation and steadfastness by all Islamic and nationalist forces belonging to Lebanon, Palestine, and the region's progressive countries against the enemies. [passage omitted]

Faruq al-Shar' Receives Lakhdar Ibrahimi 9 Jul

JN0907204789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general and the Arab tripartite committee's envoy on Lebanon.

Mustafa 'Umran, director of the Arab homeland desk at the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon and the results of the contacts Ibrahimi held in Lebanon regarding the implementation of the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon.

World 'Dismayed' by U.S. UN Veto Abstention

JN0807151489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Political commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Today marks 19 months since the intifadah [uprising] got under way to initiate a ceaseless struggle against Zionist occupation forces. Armed with the militant and revolutionary tradition it has accumulated over the past 19 months, the intifadah is as determined as ever to carry on the protracted, hard, and heroic fight to liberate the occupied territory, recover usurped rights, and terminate occupation.

The intifadah has to its credit major successes both in the Palestinian and Arab arenas that have become factors in the equation of the Arab-Zionist conflict. The intifadah has underscored the Palestinian Arabs' resolve to carry on the struggle until occupation is ended and rights and liberation are attained. The Zionist enemy itself has been the first to admit that the intifadah has caused cracks and triggered crises within Zionist society. Another lesson brought home by the intifadah is the bakruptcy of Israel's terroristic and repressive policies.

As the intifadah enters its 20th month, the Zionist enemy avows its refusal to pull out of the occupied territories and its determination to persist in its settlement activity and adopt still harsher and more heavy-handed tactics against the Arabs. Against this background, it behooves us to ask how it will be possible to force the Zionist enemy to concede Palestinian rights while it receives limitless support and backing for its fascist, aggressive, and terroristic practices from the United States, which chose to break ranks with the international community's condemnation of these practices and call on Israel to evacuate all the occupied Arab territories and to honor the Geneva Convention on the rights of people under occupation in time of war.

The question arises as to how far world political and legal bodies will move toward sparing the region a conflagration risked by the terroristic, belligerent Zionist practices. One may well ask how such a major power as the United States intends to deploy its efforts and resources toward the attainment of fair, even-handed peace predicated on justice, equality, and right in accordance with the will of the international community. The world, hopeful that the United States will develop a balanced, objective approach to the Zionist enemy's practices, has been dismayed by the U.S. abstention on the UN Security Council resolution that deplored Israel's deportation and expulsion of Palestinians, called for the safe and immediate return of the deportees, and urged Israel to desist from such acts. Explaining his country's abstention, the American ambassador said such resolutions lack balance and will not help efforts to bring the parties around the negotiating table. He further argued that the resolution contained the term the occupied Palestinian territories. What is that supposed to mean? Will U.S. silence serve balance, and will it help propel peace efforts?

It has been demonstrated that peace in the region is not attainable on Israel's lines. Nor will the peace process be helped by Israel's warped view of peace. The United States is aware that Israel alone bears the responsibility for the deteriorating Middle East situation and for hampering peace efforts by its stubborn, rejectionist policies and continued occupation of Arab territories. When and how will Washington cease to see things from the Zionist perspective and take a realistic, fair view of the situation?

Broadcast Threatens Mutilation of Israelis

JN0907194889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Palestine broadcast: "Spotlight"]

[Text] In their war against our people, the criminal Zionist leaders are deliberately using tools to maim the victims. By using this disgusting barbarian method, the Zionist leaders are choosing a weapon that may backfire, bringing great evil upon themselves.

It is not difficult for our people to use against them the weapons of physical mutilation, especially those disfiguring the face. It is not difficult to use these weapons even in the streets of Tel Aviv, Netanya, Petah Teqwa, Haifa, Hadera, and other cities and settlements. It is not difficult to punish every soldier who steps across the threshold of an Arab house by making him return to his family with a disfigured and burnt face. It is not difficult for us to wage this sort of war against them so that the Israelis will be distinguished by their mutilited faces.

The weapons of Zionist rancor being used against our people will not give the Zionists victory and supremacy. Rather, they will bring to them even more evil than that they intended for our people. They will turn their lives into unbearable hell so that, ultimately, they will retreat with total failure. Every Zionist who defends the crimes of the criminal Zionist leaders will risk the same fate.

There is nothing easier than punishing them by making each of them hold the mark of his disgrace and crime, which will live with him and torment him until he lodges in his grave.

Comments on Bus 'Operation'

JN0807181989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers, the homeland's revolution violently entered its 20th month through a gate that might be termed the gate of the bus turnover. The 19th month of the intifadah [uprising] was full of struggle and resistance. It was also full of ruthless Israeli crimes, especially Israeli racist crimes against the Palestinian people who are historically known for their profound humanity and open-mindedness.

The entire world has heard in the intifadah's 19th month about the racist badges that Israel wanted the Arabs to wear on their chests to be identified as Arabs. This is exactly what Hitler used to do when he forced the Jews to wear the famous yellow racist badge to be identified as Jews. In the intifadah's 19th month, a Zionist slave trader was bold enough to make Arab workers, forced to work at Zionist establishments to feed their children in a country where food is monopolized by Israel, stand behind cage-like iron bars for the Zionists to chose workers for their businesses.

The day before yesterday, Israel bitterly scorned the Palestinian Arab people's agonies when it announced reports on the racist, shameless meeting inside the so-called Central Committee of the Likud bloc.

From the heart of all this malignant climate, a heroic Palestinian Arab youth carried out the bus operation between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. We do not have much to say about this operation, but Israel should hear the following important facts:

1. Three years ago, the Zionist press asked a Jewish antiapartheid activist in Pretoria, (Dennis Goldberg), to condemn Palestinian resistance on the pretext that it kills innocent people. The honest Jewish struggler responded firmly: Many Israelis are not innocent because they take part in torturing the Palestinian on the one hand, and because they do not denounce Israel's oppression of the Palestinian Arab people on the other.

2. No Israeli who serves as a soldier on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and later becomes a civilian can be safe from punishment inside the Zionist entity.

3. Many may ask how Israel will react to the bus operation. They must ask what the Palestinian Arab reaction will be to the Israeli reaction, if the latter takes place.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives Pakistani Journalists 6 Jul

LD0607200389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] This morning at Gol Khanah Palace esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received a delegation from Pakistan's National Union of Journalists led by its chairman Minhaj Barna.

During this meeting esteemed Najibullah replied to the journalists' questions about the military, political situation in the country; new peace initiatives by the Republic of Afghanistan to end war and bloodshed in the country; foiling aggression and attacks from abroad; the gains from the national reconciliation policy; and the observation and implementation of the Geneva accords by the Republic of Afghanistan and their nonobservation and violation by Pakistan.

Concerning the election of Benazir Bhutto as prime minister of Pakistan and her views about solving the Afghanistan issue by political means, Esteemed Najibullah said: We welcome and approve the fact that Miss Bhutto has been elected in free elections. We had hoped from the very beginning that with the election of Benazir Bhutto, the Afghanistan issue would be settled by political means. Now, when Benazir Bhutto talks about a political solution to Afghanistan's problems, we welcome it and consider it to be a preliminary move toward political realism. However, these words should be transformed into deeds and not only discussed in reception halls and around negotiation tables. Only realism in thought and action will justify such claims. I should say clearly that solving the Afghanistan issue by political means, will prepare the ground for friendly and good relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Pakistan.

Esteemed Najibullah discussed the improved results in the continuing war in Afghanistan and the effect of this on Pakistan and regional countries, and said: I think there are some adventurous military circles in Pakistan who resort to such action not only against Afghanistan but which also disrupt the process of democracy in Pakistan. Because, as result of interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs and carrying out aggression, this interference will not be confined within the frame work of Afghanistan; but, eventually the flames of war will reach Pakistan and will be transformed into regional conflicts. Those particular militarists circles will claim again that: It is a time of war, that there is no need for democracy, there is no need for Benazir Bhutto to stay in power, and that we want to have complete power. We have felt this responsibility despite the fact that a war is imposed on us: You can see that in this war, this regional war, not only is Afghanistan's national interest put into question and danger, but also Pakistan's national interest. Without a doubt, no one else will benefit except the adventurous militarist circles in Pakistan. Pakistan's past history is witness to the fact that in order to trample on democracy Pakistani militarists were prepared to divide that country into two parts. Once again they want to repeat the bitter experience of their history. We really hope to have a democratic Pakistan next door to us. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, our country will create no problems for Pakistan.

Further on News Conference

LD0907090589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 9, BAKHTAR—As far as the government of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] is concerned, we fulfilled our obligations sincerely and timely under the Geneva agreements according to which the Soviet limited military contingent returned home four months ago. This was stated by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan in an interview with Pakistani journalists in July 6, 1989.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has not only not stopped, according to the document No 1 of the Geneva accords, its interferences in the internal affairs of the RA, but has intensified it. Likewise, Pakistani side, contrary to the document No 3 of the accords, creates obstacles on the volunteer return of the Afghan refugees back home, but the Afghan side is ready to fulfill its obligations in connection with the return of refugees. We have adopted all necessary decisions in socio-economic as well as other fields for the welcomming of refugees, Najibullah added.

Now everything is clear, there is no place remained for a fresh proposal, I have proposed repeatedly, again I want to repeat it that, if interferences among them armed invasions and encroachments particularly from Pakistani territory against the RA stop, and they not prevent the return home back of Afghan refugees, in that case, we can say that Geneva accords have been observed completely. In spite of that, if Pakistani side has faced with a question concerning to the Geneva accords, and if it requires to talk with the Afghan side, we are ready in the field, Najibullah said.

While replying to another question on concluding another agreement between the RA and Pakistan, President Najibullah said, if the Geneva accords have been implemented sincerely and completely, foreign interferences has stopped in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, then Afghans themselves are able to solve the issue relating to the next political construction of Afghanistan, on the basis of the right of self-determination peacefully through negotiations.

In my opinion, delivering up-to-date arms to armed opposition, and encouraging them for the continuation of war and bloodshed in our country, this not only violates the Geneva accords, but also creates serious obstacles in the field of reconciliation and understanding

among different Afghan groups, such political course is not only against the interests of the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, but also face with great danger peace and security in the region.

While touching on the restoration of relations between the RA and Pakistan, Najibullah stressed that, we welcomed the democratic election of Benazir Bhutto as Pakistani premier, and we considered it not only useful for Pakistani people but also for political solution of the situation in Afghanistan, so verbal support from political solution of Afghan issue is not enough, these expressions must be put into practice by adopting certain measures. Naturally, sincere cooperation of Pakistani Government in political solution of the situation in Afghanistan, can pave the ground for restoration of relations between the two neighbouring countries. I think, now from the view point of internal conditions in Afghanistan and Pakistan and from international point of view, favourable atmosphere has been created for the restoration of Afghan-Pak relations, we must not lose such a golden chance.

As far as the RA is concerned, we will spare no efforts in restoration of relations between the two countries as well as their promotion into a friendly and good neighborliness one. Because such relations are not only in the interests of the people of the two countries, but also preservation of peace and stability in the region and world as well.

While replying to another question posed by journalists in connection with the convening of a session between signatory as well as guarantor countries of the Geneva accords, President Najibullah said, the Geneva accords contain such articles which order to convene session among these countries in a time when one side breach it. Regretfully, Pakistan in spite of its repeated violations from the accords, has ignored arranging such negotiations. Besides, the Geneva accords has recommended setting up of mixed commission between the two countries on peaceful and volunteer return of Afghan refugees, but Pakistan refrains establishing such a commission.

While replying to a question on socio-economic reforms, President Najibullah stressed that the war has not only severely affected socio-economic and cultural reforms, but also all moral and material basis. During the ten years of war, great part of agricultural system, irrigational networks, productive institutions, and hundreds of schools, hospitals, roads, brigades and telephone lines have been completely destroyed or partially damaged. Besides, hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been killed from both sides.

The basic characteristics of the national reconciliation policy are the cessation of war, starting negotiations among the sides concerned, setting up of a broad-based coalition government with the participation of all parties, [words indistinct] social and political personalities in and outside the country, convening of Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) for drafting a new Constitution, holding free and democratic elections based on the Constitution, ensurance and consolidation of friendly relations with all countries, particularly neighbour and Islamic countries based on the principle of repect to the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, particularly mutual cooperation, respect for international norms, strengthening the non-aligned and neutral status of Afghanistan and in case of need demilitarization of the country with authoritative international guarantees, construction of country economy on the basis of multi-sector system strengthening private sector, attraction of foreign investments, ensurance of favourable conditions for active and free participation of the Afghan people in the economic life of the country, reconstruction cultural institutions, setting up of such a cultural system in which all tribes and nationalities could develop and growth their national culture.

Following the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, over 60,000 previous armed opposition gave up their hostile activities against the government, and have joined this policy, over one-thousand Afghans, in spite of obstacles returned home, Loya Jirgahs (Grand Assemblies) were held, elections for the local organs of state power and administration, including parliamentary were held, talks are going on with a large number of local commanders and opposition personalities inside and outside the country, protocols have been concluded with a number of them.

While touching on a question related to the military situation in Jalalabad, Najibullah emphasized that, recently armed opposition backed by Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis launched new offensive on Jalalabad to occupy it, the armed forces resorted to counter-attack [words indistinct] which Dowlatzai and Lalma Chaparhar Regions, Hadda village, Kaber Kariz, Pulisaracha, Samar Kheyl village, and Sorkh Dewar [placenemes as received] were seized from the opposition, now the armed forces are advancing towards Ghaziabad. In my opinion there are limited number of adventurists who are in favour of continuation of war and tension in Afghanistan, region and the world, also, there are certain adventurist circles in Pakistan, they not only in Afghanistan, but also for thwarting the process of democracy in Pakistan, resorting to such activities.

If the encroachments and interferences of Pakistan against the RA does not stopped, war may not remain in the limitations of Afghan territory, its fire will infiltrate to Pakistan, then it will change into a regional clash, but I, in this connection treated according to the sense of responsibility, I did not adopt any measure that Pakistani militarists will misuse it in order to trample partial democracy now existed in that country. You were eyewitnessed yesterday of the rocket attacks on Kabul city which victims were a number of our people including children and women. We do not want the creation of such a situation in which we will be compelled to resort

to counter-action against Pakistan, therefore, the best way is a political solution which is in the interest of all people as well as peace and stability in the region, President Najibullah emphasized.

Wakil Receives Pakistani Journalists 5 Jul

LD0507163489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 4, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, the Afghan foreign minister, received here today a group of Pakistani journalists from different mass media.

In the interview, the Afghan foreign minister, talked about the political situation in the country and international developments regarding the political solution of the issue in Afghanistan. 'Abdul Wakil explained to the journalists about the peaceful policy pursued by the Republic of Afghanistan to establish good neighbourly relations with its neighbours including Pakistan and called on Pakistan to honour the provisions of the Geneva Accords.

The Afghan foreign minister replied to the questions raised by the journalists.

Spokesman on 'Provocative' U.S. Position

LD0707204689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokeman said the following about provocative assertions by Peter Thomson, the U.S. Government representative with the armed opposition forces ranged against the Republic of Afghanistan:

A few days ago, Mr Peter Thomson, U.S. representative with the armed opposition forces of Afghanistan stationed in Peshawar, made provocative and openly interfering assertions at a news conference, proving once again the true nature of the U.S. policy of imposing a military solution and continuing the war and bloodshed in our country.

To begin with, the appointment of a representative for the leaders of the terrorist groups who do not have any foothold in their own country, is against all the norms of international relations and is an unworthy (?act) in relations between states. The Bush administration, while showing a green light to a political solution under the pressure of U.S. public opinion and as a result of facts which rule out a military victory, as well as taking into account the fatal and repeated defeats of the warmongering extremist oppositions, in fact is continuing the Afghan policies of the previous administration under completely different conditions. It is continuing to send huge military assistance to the extremist opposition groups, forcing them to fight and encouraging them to strive for a military victory.

During the news conference Peter Thomson stated openly that U.S. policy will remain as it is. That is, it will continue its humanitarian, economic, and military assistance to the so-called resistance groups. The U.S. policy of maintaining military aid to the leaders of the opposition is really intended to keep alive the flame of war and to count on a military solution. How could anyone expect such a deceitful policy from a great power like the United States, which itself is one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords?

As esteemed Najibullah said during a BAKHTAR interview on the visit of Prime Minister Bhutto of Pakistan to Washington, we expect that statements on a political solution should be combined with practical steps and measures. Unfortunately, we see that practical steps are taken by the United States, not toward a political solution but toward intensification of war and to reach the military victory imagined by the extremists. This will not bring anything but death, slaughter, the scattering of more Afghans, and the destruction of their country.

In his statements Mr Thomson repeated the well-worn U.S. position on a political solution. This shows that the United States is in no way serious about a political solution. Mr Thomson says that they are in favor of a political solution in Afghanistan. How then could such words and policy be taken serious without the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA]?

Taking into account the ever-increasing power of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the display of its talent and strength in the defense of the country, and also paying attention to the ever-increasing consolidation of its internal and international position, does the United States really believe that without the participation of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the PDPA, could peace be ensured in Afghanistan? No. If the United States really holds that view, then it could only be called a cruel policy of bargaining to impose peace by means of war and force, as they say. The result will be continuation of the savage slaughter of thousands of innocent Afghans.

Afghans have never submitted to bullying and diktat and never will. The policy of the Republic of Afghanistan to ensure peace and the mechanism of a political solution is very clear. The Republic of Afghanistan is in favor of a cease-fire and dialogue and the creation of a broad-based coalition government with the participation of all the political forces in the country, including the PDPA as a main element of the coalition. The policy has infiltrated the hearts and minds of Afghans and of a number of armed opposition members who say yes to it.

We have enormous patience. A large number of those people who were saying no to this policy today consider it the only alternative and the most realistic alternative. We will continue this policy. If someone wants to negotiate with us from a position of strength and diktat and to impose on us their own favorite solution, we have

proved by our own experience that we can defend ourselves decisively. We invite everybody to follow this logic. We tell people like Mr Thomson: Do not allow your unrealistic, discriminating, bullying policies to cause a continuation of the tragedy of war and slaughter in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Cables Bush on Independence Day

LD0507231189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 4, BAKHTAR—"I am very pleased to congratulate you and the people of the U.S.A. on the occasion of the 213th independence anniversary of the U.S.A.", says the congratulatory message of President Najibullah, addressed on Sunday to George Bush, President of the United States of America on that occasion.

The old ties and friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and the U.S.A., give us the hope that these friendly ties would further develop, the message says.

Ever increasing intention for the realistic realization of the situation in and around Afghanistan is a good news to pave the ground for the creation of possibilities for the closeness of stands of the two countries, the message adds.

Availing this apportunity I wish success for you as well as prosperity and welfare of the people of the United States of America, besides, I further wish that, ground be paved for the improvement of relations between the two countries, in the interests of peace in the RA [Republic of Afghanistan], region and in the world, the message concluded.

Embassy Second Secretary in Islamabad Defects

BK0707130589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The second secretary in the Afghan Embassy at Islamabad, Mr ('Abdul Wakil Bahramand), has defected to the Afghan mujahidin and vowed to join their struggle. Mr (Wakil) made this announcement at a news conference in Peshawar today. He was posted in the Afghan Embassy at Islamabad in October last year. He was on leave in Afghanistan where he defected and joined the mujahidin ranks.

Kabul Missiles Hit Pakistan Border Zone

BK0807151089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 8 (AFP)—Two people were killed and six wounded Saturday when three Scud missiles aimed at Afghan mujahidin positions near Jalalabad landed on both sides of the Torkham border crossing, resistance sources said.

The latest attacks by long-range Scuds fired from their Kabul launch site came after the government's ground troops were halted—following initial advances Wednesday and Thursday—in their advance on rebel bases in the Samarkhel region southeast of Jalalabad, mujahidin sources said.

They said fresh guerrillas have reached Ghaziabad, Hadda Farms and Sarshai bases to reinforce the resistance and to check the government offensive, aimed at reaching Torkham, which was lost to rebels last year.

In the early morning missile attacks, one Scud hit Gurmark, a former customs post that fell to the mujahidin in November, while another hit Shamshad Hills, close to the historic Khyber Pass crossings.

The third Scud landed in the Khar Ghalai mountains, about two kilometers inside Pakistan, the sources said, causing no damage.

But the missile hitting Gurmark destroyed a building, killing at least two people and wounding six.

Rescue workers were searching through a demolished room in the building where some people were feared still trapped, the sources said.

Meanwhile, resistance sources said that an artillery duel was continuing around Samar Kheyl garrison, southeast of Jalalabad.

The sources said that Kabul's forces had managed to reach as far as Samarx Kheyl village, about one kilometer from the Samar Kheyl garrison, which served as headquarters of the 11th Afghan Division during the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet troops.

But while the sources claimed that Samar Kheyl garrison was under mujahidin control, Afghan military authorities took foreign reporters there by bus Saturday to show that it was in government hands.

Several resistance sources contended that the mujahidin guerrillas were occupying strategic Surkh Deewal mountains overlooking the cantonment and that the Kabul regime's troops were only at the outskirts.

A spokesman for a moderate resistance faction, the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, said that Kabul knew it was "strategically impossible to enter the garrison without ensuring control of the mujahidin-held mountains."

The rebel government's defense minister, Deen Mohammad, was quoted by the pro-mujahidin AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) as saying that "mujahidin were now on attacking position while the regime's troops were on the defensive."

AIP said the minister had instructed the mujahidin to launch fresh attacks in the north and west of Jalalabad "not only to compensate (for) the losses but also to regain the lost areas."

The road linking Jalalabad with Kabul was cut and the government could not send any convoys for the past two days, the agency said.

Afghan government forces, in a major offensive on mujahidin positions around Jalalabad on Thursday, overran several guerrilla bases that rebels had captured in early March.

The Kabul troops, in a surprise move, forced the mujahidin out of their important bases at Kariz Kabir, Seracha and Parkand, which are located within a a 10-kilometer radius from the city, the sources said.

The mujahidin abandoned several positions around Jalalabad and its airport after failing to capture both places during their four-month assault.

Several guerrilla groups have blamed a shortage of weapons and, especially, ammunition for the setbacks this week.

Retreating guerrillas had to blow up their own stock of arms because they had no ammunition to respond to heavy mortar and long-range artillery shellings of their positions, resistance sources said.

An Afghan news agency dispatch quoted some mujahidin field commanders as saying that they had been facing the shortages of light and heavy weapons for the last five months.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles on Kabul

LD0807162289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The Pakistani-protected criminal extremists, who are against the peace and tranquillity of our Muslim people, today perpetrated another shocking crime. They fired six surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas in Kabul.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reported that these missiles, fired by these professional criminals, hit the residential areas of Kabul. Eight of our compatriots, including women and children, were martyred; another four persons were injured. Those injured were quickly taken to the hospital, where they are being treated. Our compatriots suffered substantial losses.

More Than 1,800 Killed in Jalalabad Siege

BK0807071489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan, July 8 (AFP)—More than 1,000 civilians and 800 Afghan soldiers were killed in the four-month-long mujahidin siege of this eastern Afghan city, the senior officer charged with its defence said here.

Speaking to Western journalists flown here by helicopter Friday to witness the government's widening control of the city and its surroundings, Lieutenant General Manook Mangal [spelling as received] said another 1,993 civilians had been injured in the heavy shelling of the city, known as the gateway to Kabul.

Journalists were taken by bus to the Samar Kheyl garrison, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Jalalabad, recaptured this week by government troops, including a special guard unit, after massive government bombing strikes.

Lt. Gen. Mangal, 41, estimated mujahidin casualties, mainly from bombing, at 22,000 dead and wounded. No figures were given for government troops injured, but three generals were among the dead.

On Friday, however, this shell-battered city celebrated with parades, flags and cries of "Afghanistan zindabad" (Long live Afghanistan) and "Marg ya vatan" (Victory or death).

Hundreds of people and militia emerged from the cellars of shrapnel-pocked houses, thronging into the city's main square for the first time since March 5, when mujahidin with heavy logistic support from Pakistan launched the attack.

The guerrillas had hoped for a quick and decisive psychologal victory over the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah in the wake of the February 15 Soviet troop withdrawal.

Lt. Gen. Mangal, speaking to the crowd in 43 degree centigrade heat (110 fahrenheit), extolled the prowess of the Afghan Armed Forces, as young militiamen armed with Kalashnikov rifles lined the rooftops.

He recalled the days when up to 5,000 artillery shells and rockets landed on the city daily. The bombing left some 900 houses, 150 shops, 42 government buildings and 20,000 hectares of land surrounding this former winter-resort city destroyed or damaged.

The city's airport, which bore the brunt of repeated ground and rocket attacks, is once again operating—at least marginally with the niceties of appearance ignored. The hangars are blown apart, the runway damaged and control tower all but destroyed.

Rebels Repulse Attack

BK0807093589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Reports say that Afghan mujahidin have repulsed the Kabul regime forces' attack on the southeastern side of Jalalabad city, and have captured more than 20 military posts west of the city and the highway linking the city with Kabul. AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY reports that in another sector at Tungi near Sarowbi, west of Jalalabad, the mujahidin captured 24 more posts and the highway leading to the capital, and destroyed 40 military vehicles equipped with arms.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the interim government of Afghanistan has rejected reports that mujahidin have lost control of the Samarkhel base at Jalalabad sector. In a statement issued yesterday, the spokesman categorically said that the base, which was seized by the mujahidin this March, is still under their control.

Mujahidin Deny Setbacks

BK0807143889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the Kabul regime has declared a general state of war and ordered further recruitment to the armed forces. Kabul Radio says that the administration has directed officials of the ruling party to further (?intensify) armed forces centers.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the defense department of the mujahidin's interim government has described as incorrect and baseless the Kabul regime's propaganda that Kabul forces are moving toward Towr Kham after seizing Samarkhel base near Jalalabad. He told AGENCE AFGHAN PRESS the mujahidin had pushed the Kabul regime forces back after bloody fighting at a site between Samarkhel and Jalalabad and that Samarkhel base is under the control of mujahidin.

According to reports, the mujahidin have launched an offensive against the puppet regime forces at Pol-e 'Alam, south of Kabul, and have captured three important security posts.

India

Sri Lankan Minister Meets Gandhi in New Delhi

BK0807160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan rural industrial development minister, Mr Thondaman, called on the prime minister in New Delhi today. After his meeting with Mr Gandhi, Mr Thondaman said the prime minister is keen on sorting out the issue with Sri Lanka. He said Mr Gandhi pointed out that a part of the peacekeeping force had been withdrawn even before a formal request was made by the island government.

Wijeratne's Expressed Wish To Visit Welcomed

BK0607155589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] India has again extended invitation to the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, to visit New Delhi. An external affairs spokesman told newsmen that during his recent meeting with Mr Narasimha Rao in Harare, the Sri Lankan foreign minister had expressed the desire to visit India to finalize the schedule for the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force from the island.

The spokesman said that in view of this and the fact that we have agreed that the matters have to be settled by consultations, India welcomed Mr Wijeratne's expressed wish to visit India.

Invitation Rejection Elicits Surprise

BK0707033289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Colombo say that the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, has declined India's invitation to visit New Delhi to finalize the schedule for the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force from the island. He told a post-cabinet press briefing yesterday that President Premadasa has sent a reply to the clarifications sought by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. It is understood that the letter was received in New Delhi last night. The contents are, however, not known.

Informed sources in New Delhi have expressed surprise over the reaction by the Sri Lankan foreign minister. They say such peculiar behavior of the Sri Lankan Government indicates a lack of seriousness in resolving the withdrawal issue through a negotiated settlement. The sources add that it was Mr Wijeratne's expressed desire to come to India for consultations, which was welcomed by New Delhi. Following suggestions made by him to the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, at Harare, the invitation was reiterated. However, the latest utterances of the island government, if press reports are true, is a reversal of their earlier position.

Spokesman on Sri Lanka; Gandhi Visit to France

BK0607151589 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1505 GMT 6 Jul 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement"—ISI headline]

[Text]

Prime Minister's Visit to France

The PM [prime minister] will be visiting France from the 12th to 15th July 1989 to participate in the French bi-centenary celebrations. During the visit, he will have talks with President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Michel Rocard and a number of other world leaders.

On Sri Lanka

To queries about clarifications on the reports that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] had launched a massive operation against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in recent days, the spokesman said:

"We have seen these reports. There have been no additional IPKF troops. The IPKF has undertaken a series of on-going operations for disarming the LTTE and there is nothing special about the present military activity. The recent operations have been more successful, but this is nothing special. For example, in the last 24 hours, 121 militants have been taken into custody in Vavuniya sector. In Batticaloa, 19 PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] cadres had surrendered voluntarily. Part of the IPKF operations is to disarm the LTTE."

When a clarification was sought about the LTTE reports that the IPKF was preparing to use napalm, the spokesman said that these allegations had already been refuted by our high commission in Colombo.

To a query whether Gurkha soldiers were part of the IPKF contingents, the spokesman said that he had no information on the subject. When questioned whether the intensification of operations against the LTTE after [Sri Lankan President] Premadasa's request to the Indian Government to halt operations against the LTTE, is to be been seen as ignoring the Sri Lankan president's request, the spokesman said that "we have sought clarifications and we are awaiting the response from the Sri Lankan Government."

Spokesman on Nepal Talks Agenda, Gurkha Troops
BK0707164689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] India is examining the suggestions made by Nepal regarding the comprehensive agenda proposed by the external affairs minister. Mr Narasimha Rao proposed the agenda in his letter on the 18th of June to his Nepalese counterpart for talks on trade and transit and other bilateral matters. This was stated by an official spokesman in New Delhi today. He was referring to the press reports about remarks allegedly made by the Nepalese chief spokesman that the agenda for talks had been forwarded to New Delhi by his country.

Talking to newsmen, the spokesman said a limited agenda came from Nepal in May, after a series of approaches made by India in April and May last. India then followed it up by a full-scope agenda in the form of a letter by the external affairs minister to his Nepalese counterpart. In a subsequent reply, the Nepalese foreign minister spoke of Mr Narasimha Rao's statesmanship in preparing a comprehensive agenda. Mr Upadhayaya also said that the agenda given by India comprised the most important and relevant aspects of the India-Nepalese relationship. The spokesman said that the Nepalese foreign minister's reply also made some suggestions regarding certain amendments. This is being examined.

India is astonished that Nepal has chosen to take a narrow, communal view of the deployment of Gurkha troops in Sri Lanka. This was stated by the official spokesman while referring to reports on this subject emanating from Nepal. The spokesman said the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] was in Sri Lanka to protect Tamils. The deployment of Gurkhas in Sri Lanka was not violating the 1947 treaty on the subject to which Nepal had referred.

Military Delegation Arrives for Siachen Talks
BK0907160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] A Pakistani Army delegation arrived in New Delhi today for the 2-day talks with Indian army officials on Siachen. The talks begin tomorrow. The 3-member delegation is led by the director general of military operations, Lieutenant General (Imtiaz Varaich). The Indian team will be led by the director general of the military operations, Lieutenant General B.K. Singh.

Minister on Hindu-Muslim Tension in Uttar Pradesh
BK0707145289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has expressed the government's determination not to allow any one to disturb communal harmony and take the law into his own hands. He was speaking at the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to his ministry in New Delhi today. Mr Buta Singh referred to the situation in Uttar Pradesh where tension is brewing in the wake of threats to pull down Babri Masjid [Mosque] and build a temple there. He said the State Government is closely monitoring the situation and also the center is keeping a watch. Expressing concern over the rise of fundamentalism, members suggested that a solution acceptable to all should be found to Ayudhya dispute [between Hindus and Muslims claiming a piece of land of historic importance] through discussions.

On Punjab, Mr Buta Singh said the government is not averse to holding talks with any group within the parameters of the Constitution. At the same time, he assured the members that all possible measures are being taken to stamp out terrorism.

'Disturbed Area Act' Enforced in Assam
BK0607161989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] The Assam government has enforced the Assam Disturbed Area Act of 1965 in Kokrajhar District. Official sources in Guwahati said the step has been taken to curb increasing violence in the district following the

agitation by a faction of All Bodo Students Union [ABSU]. The decision to enforce the disturbed area act was taken by the political affairs committee of the state government.

Normal life in the district and Udalguri Subdivision remained paralyzed for the 11 day today following the 340 hour bundh [strike] called by the ABSU.

A 12-hour bundh in the Cachar and Karimganj Districts passed off without any untoward incident. The call for the bundh was given by the Congress-I in protest against the revision of the electoral roll on the basis of 1966 voters list under the recent circular of the election commission. The Congress-I is demanding that revision should be on the basis 1985 roll. During the bundh all business establishments and educational institutions remained closed. Vehicular traffic was off the road; train services were also disrupted.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Sheybani To Run for President

LD0907083889 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and former Cabinet Minister 'Abbas Sheybani will compete in Iran's fifth presidential race, it was determined Sunday [9 July].

The qualifications of two were confirmed by the Council of Guardians from among more than 80 who has sought to become candidates for the July 28 elections.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, backed by outgoing President 'Ali Khamene'i, Friday prayers leaders and the powerful Combatant Clergy Society, has been widely tipped to become the Islamic Republic's fourth president.

The 55-year-old Majlis speaker has been among the most distinguished and high ranking officials since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

His political career after the revolution began as a member of the Revolutionary Council and most recently was picked by the late Imam Khomeyni as the acting armed forces commander in chief.

Last month he paid a landmark visit to Moscow, boosting Iran's relations with Moscow with far-reaching economic and defence agreements worth more than dlrs 6 billion.

His challenger has been a presidential candidate once before.

Sheybani, agriculture minister in the 1979 provisional government, attracted the second-largest number of votes among four candidates in the July 1981 presiential elections.

That contest was won by the late Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i who swept 13 million of the 14.8 million votes.

A medical doctor trained in France, 58-year-old Sheybani has won a seat from Tehran in all three Majlis elections.

The presidential elections is taking place three weeks ahead of the date originally announced by the Interior Ministry following the passing away of Imam Khomeyni on June 3.

The following day President Khamene'i was chosen the new leader of the Islamic Republic and it was decided to forward the election date to bring in a new administration as soon as possible.

Officially two-term President Khamene'i, who is barred by the Constitution from seeking a third term, should hand over power in October but he is expected to step down sooner to pave way for the new president.

The Presidency has been given significant new powers in proposed amendments to the constitution which are to be put to a national referendum on the same day as the presidential election.

The president has been put in charge of the Cabinet instead of the prime minister whose position has been entirely eliminated.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who made his presidential bid clear in June, has put the economy high on the agenda and has pledged to launch a "fundamental" fight against inflation and unemployment.

Khamene'i Condemns Saudi Arabia on Hajj

LD0607112189 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic has strongly condemned Saudi Arabia for preventing Iranians from performing the hajj and reiterated on the late Imam Khomeyni's stance that hajj without politics was incomplete.

In an 18-page message on the start of the hajj ceremony, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i called on pilgrims from others nations to discuss the political issues facing the Islamic world and "revive the memory of your detached (Iranian) brothers."

"The dear nation of Iran, the hand of the enemy has again deprived you of your certain right to make pilgrimage to the house of god and the grave of the prophet...(in Mecca and Medina) and added another dark page to its black file," he said.

"But from our view the future outlook is clear and hopeful. We have carried out our Islamic duty and we will be patient as regards to its consequences. We hope god would be gracious towards us...."

He said pilgrims should gather in great numbers "to express their opposition and hatred towards the cultural conspiracies of the arrogant against Islam" namely on the issue of the 'Satanic Verses'.

The late imam's death sentence against its blasphemous author, Indian-born Salman Rushdie who is now a British citizen, stood and would apply to anyone else who insulted Islam, he said.

The leader, in his first foreign message blasted Riyadh for raising "hollow" excuses to exclude Iranians from the hajj for the second consecutive year.

"It is now two years that the Al Sa'ud rulers have blocked the faithful from performing (the hajj)...in order to gratify America and Israel," he said.

Quoting the Koran, he said the Saudis had thus made themselves the example of "those who disbelieve, and hinder men from god's way from the sacred mosque which we have made equally for all men."

"Our memory of history will not forget these hostilities," he added.

The message is the harshest attack on Riyadh since Ayatollah Khamene'i was chosen to lead the country following the death of Imam Khomeyni on June 3.

The Iranian press in recent days have launched a bitter campaign against the Saudis and a special week has been named on the occasion to underline Iran's position.

Relations between the two countries hit the ground three years ago when more than 400 hajjis, mostly Iranians, were martyred in Mecca when the security forces stormed a demonstration against the superpowers.

Relations were later cut off by Saudi Arabia and a quota system was introduced allowing Iran to send only 45,000 pilgrims to the hajj every year, one third the number of previous years.

Saudi authorities have also stressed that they would not tolerate any political activity by pilgrims.

But leader Khamene'i, quoting a number of the late imam's statements on the hajj, reiterated that the hajj would not be complete if political matters facing Muslims around the globe were not raised and discussed.

The most important issues were the Islamic uprising in Palestine, the Lebanese civil war and the continued struggle of the Afghan Mujahidin to topple the Kabul regime.

"Whoever separates the hajj from its political identity is either ignorant or malicious," he stressed.

"God would not forgive those who...are willing to take away the greatest weapon of the Islamic World against the arrogant and infidel world and transform the lively and sensational hajj into (an arena) for shallow personal worship along with sight-seeing and commercial activities."

He said Muslims everywhere should remember that pure Islam, unlike Americanized Islam, was inseparable from politics as the late imam emphasized.

"We have pledged to God to continue Imam Khomeyni's...path which is the path of Islam and the Koran and the path towards the glory of Muslims....

"Our main aim in all this is to revive Islam once again and to return to Koranic values. We will not retreat an inch from this aim."

Leader Khamene'i's message was dated the first of Dhul Hijjah (July 5) the first day of the last month of the Islamic year during the first two weeks of which the hajj is performed.

The ayatollah said all Muslims should be sensitive towards moves aimed at insulting Islam as in the case of the blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses'.

The author, Salman Rushdie, remained condemned to death and "should await the implementation of the sentence at the destined moment."

He said: "Of course, the general obligation of all towards insults against Islamic sanctities is crystal clear and the late imam's decree that the apostate and wicked author-...must be killed clarifies the responsibility of all in similar cases."

Second Part of Khamene'i Message to Pilgrims

NC0707125489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jul 89

["Second and last part" of message from Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, addressed to pilgrims visiting Mecca and to Muslims throughout the world—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] One of the important issues facing the world of Islam today is the malicious and insane hostility of the front of the satan, especially the archsatan, against Islam and Islamic tenets and beliefs. Even through the organized and multifaceted hostility against Islam dates back to the birth of colonialism and colonialists used Islamic coutnries for plunder, massacres, and aggression, they still look upon Islam as an impediment to and a firm stronghold against their sedition and have made it the target of their political and cultural onslaughts. They have plotted to sever the Muslims from Islam and the

Koran with their diabolical artifices and by spreading corruption, debauchery, and profligacy. However, when the volcano of the Islamic revolution destroyed their hopes and illuminated the hearts of the Muslims of the world with hope and brought glad tidings of an Islamic renaissance to the world, the oppressive powers bore down upon islam like a wounded wolf in a confused and schizophrenic attack from all sides. Of course, this was not unexpected. The divine traditions will materialize in their defeat and destruction and their disgrace is imminent, God willing. [passage omitted]

Naturally the real target of all the plots against Islam in the past decade was the Islamic Republic, which is considered the Mecca of Islam and the pioneer of its international movement. During this decade the Iranian nation suffered various blows which were in fact aimed at Islam and its massive revolutionary force. The imposed 8-year-long war, the economic embargo, and the miscellaneous and innumerable economic, political, and propaganda attacks against the Islamc Republic were in fact intended to exert pressure on Islam and stemmed from their enmity toward Islam. We are proud that as a result of the precious and unique gem that we possess, that is faith in God and practice of Islam, even through we have been the targets of the obsessive fury and bestial vengeance of the world powers for many years, we were shielded from this calamity. [passage omitted]

But the struggle of the arrogant powers with Islam was not limited to what was done to Iran and its people and the system of the Islamic Republic. The enmity toward Islam continued on a wider scale. There was serious use of political and propaganda methods, as well as cultural methods. The pressures against and suppression of the strugglers, freedom-seekers, and Islamic scholars and intellectuals in Islamic countries by pro-U.S. regimes, and the suppression of Islamic minorities in non-Muslim countries, are clear examples of the political struggle against Islam. Articles and books have been written and films produced that insult Islam; their propagation in Islamic and non-Islamic contexts are examples of the cultural struggle against Islam.

Now arrogant goverments such as those of the United States, Britain, and the like are spending astronomical sums on these criminal hostilities. Unfortunately there are scholars and artists who sell their works for money. By suppressing their cultural conscience, they serve the sinister objectives of the powerful.

An important point is that these hostile acts stem from the weakness felt by the camp of arrogance toward Islam. The firmness of Islam, the resistance of the Muslim Iranian nation, the loud cries of the idol breakers of the century, and the divine grace and assistance that has always been extended to the pious worshipper led to the export of the revolutionary thought of Islam which the enemy greatly feared through the same ways that they had prepared to prevent the export of the revolution or inflict blows on it. The oppression of the Iranian nation and the toleration of hardships proved the righteousness of this great nation and the expansion of the revolution in many countries. It made the Muslims of the world more firmly determined and gave them a feeling of Islamic identity.

Today the minions of world arrogance everywhere have a reactive stance toward Islam. Their enmity toward Islam—expressed with either cultural or political methods—that relies on the use of force and the bayonet stems from their feeling of weakness and fear vis-a-vis the rising tide of Islam. This too is a sign of God's grace that each one of their efforts either to insult or to strike at Islam turns into an element that increases the rage of the Muslims and make the Muslims' determination firmer still in defending Islam.

A conspicuous example is the affair of the publication of the Satanic book by the apostate British writer—the shedding of whose blood is permissible—by means of which the oppressive powers endeavored to undermine islam and God Almighty. Instead, they made it a source of their own humiliation. With the promulgation of the decree of the imam of the nation stating that the writer was one whose blood should be shed, the Muslims rose in unison. Their cohesion was further augmented and all the enemy's efforts to fight Islam will, God willing, culminate in such an outcome. [passage omitted]

The next point is that Muslims in all parts of the world should be extremely sensitive and vigilant with regard to the enemy's conpiratorial measures for the weakening and disgracing of Islam, especially against cultural plots such as the writing of books and production of films that are anti-Islamic. On this level, the real defenders of the trenches are the writers and artists whose hearts are pulsating for Islam and who are aware of the malice and hatred of the oppressors' machinery for Islam and the Muslims. [passage omitted]

Of course the duty of everyone before an insult to the Islamic sanctities is clear and the decree of the late imam on the assassination of the apostate and abominable author of "The Satanic Verses" clarifies the duty of all in similar cases. The decree of the imam of the ummah remains in force, and he should continue to expect that this decree will be carried out until the moment of truth.

Muslims should make use of large congregations to the maximum, especially the massive hajj gathering, to proclaim their opposition to and disdain for the cultural plots of oppression against Islam, and they should display their decisive steadfastness in the face of such plots. They should be confident that the honorable Muslims who have taken a decisive stance in response to the imam of the nation's call will continue to do so.

At the hajj, the problems of the world of Islam should be studied. The greatest problem for Muslims in general, after the need to be prepared for defense of Islam and the

essential identity of the Muslims, is the issue of the oppressed combatant nations which have been tyrannized and victimized by the turbulence of oppression and infidelity and have had the worst conditions of living thrust on them. The oppressed Palestinian nation is a striking example of such a nation. [passage omitted]

One of the real reasons for such conditions was the fact that the Palestinian nation's Islamic identity had been forgotten, coupled with the lack on dependence of Islam and Islamic holy war in recent decades. The second reason was the treachery of Arab rulers and even of leaders and prominent figures among the Palestinians as well. Today, by the grace of God, the element of faith and Islamic holy war has been revived in the form of the struggles of the Palestinian nation within their desired homeland. For this reason, the balance of power has changed in favor of the Palestinians, compared to what it was in the past. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese nation, which is under two-pronged pressure from the Zionists and their collaborators the Phalangists and has been engulfed in fire and blood for years, has found its path and has become determined to surmount the modern fascist tribal system support by the United States, France, and Great Britain. The oppressed Lebanese Muslims have linked their destiny with the Palestinian nation. They suffer greatly from having as their neighbors the expansionist Zionist aggressors. Here as well, it is their faith and jihad which will break the impasse.

The world was also a witness to the resolution, in an unbelievable manner, of the stalemate in Afghanistan. The Afghan mujahidin were able to drive out the foreign forces through the blessings of Islam and through their unity. If they continue to rely on these two factors, they will be able to establish a suitable government in accordance with their own wishes and will uproot the present affiliated regime. These two factors are the remedy for the sufferings of Palestine and Lebanon as well.

We do not consider that the remedy for the Palestinian issue lies in the paths dictated by the superpowers. The Palestinian wound will be healed by the eradication of the cankerous strength of the Zionist government, and this is a very real possibility. The Muslims should ponder on this issue during the hajj and should unite on this point. They should raise coordinated slogans in this regard and act in unison. As always, the Iranian nation considers itself on the side of the Palestinian combatants and considers its own triumph incomplete without a victory for the Palestinian issue.

The great departed imam gave top priority to the Palestinian issue, right at the commencement of the struggle in Iran. He pursued it during the course of the struggle as well as in the aftermath of the triumph of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

We have pledged to God that we will continue to tread the path of Imam Khomeyni—may his status be elevated—which is the path of Islam and the Koran, the path of the prestige of the Muslims. The policy of neither East nor West, support of the oppressed and the tyrannized, defense of the unity and movement of the great Islamic ummah, the endeavor to surmount all elements of discord and the polarization Muslims on the international level, the effort to create a new Islamic Utopia, reliance on the policy of supporting the deprived and those living in huts, and the mobilization of all possibilities for the reconstruction of the country on the domestic level—all these are the lines on which our programs are formulated.

The real objective of all these programs is the resuscitation of Islam and a return to the values of the Koran. We will not budge even a hairsbreadth from our objectives.

Brothers and sisters, O dear Iranian nation! Even if the enemy's hand has prevented you this year from performing your undisputed right; that is, from visiting the divine abode, the resting place of the Prophet—may God's benedictions be upon him and his scion—and the mausoleums of the guiding imams in the Baqi' cemetery—may God's blessings be upon them—this has added another chapter to his black record, and the future outlook, in our view, is clear and bright.

We have performed our Islamic obligations until now and we continue to exercise patience and fortitude in this regard. I hope that God Almighty will bestow his blessings upon us, and the lord of the ages, may our souls be sacrificed for him, will be pleased with us, and may his prayers be with us. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i

[Dated 1 Dhu al-Hijjah 1409 Hegira

Khamene'i Proclaims Mourning for Hajj Victims

LD0707154289 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic has announced three days of mourning ceremonies at his headquarters to commemorate the martyrs of the 1987 hajj tragedy.

A statement from Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's office said the ceremonies would be held Saturday through Monday.

It was to mark "the anniversary of the bloody Mecca tragedy and the innocent martyrdom of the pilgrims of the house of God by the hands of agents of arrogant world powers and the Al-Saud regime."

Musavi Endorses Khamene'i's Hajj Message

LD0807112189 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 8 Jul 89

["Hajj Message Reaffirms Iran's Revolutionary Stand"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's hajj message indicated that the Islamic Republic remained committed to its revolutionary principles.

"Ayatollah Khamene'i's message should dash the hopes of America and its followers," he told Saturday's [8 July] Cabinet session.

"Everyone should know that the leader of Muslims and the great nation of Iran will safeguard the anti-arrogant and pro-oppressed...line."

Leader Khamene'i sent an 18-page message to world Muslims Thursday condemning Saudi Arabia's hajj policy which has blocked Iranians from making pilgrimage to the holy shrines.

He reiterated that the hajj should be mixed with politics or else it would be reduced to a meaningless ceremony of personal worship and commercial activity.

The Daily JOMHURI ISLAMI Saturday praised the message for echoing the views of the late Imam Khomeyni.

Premier Musavi said world Muslims knew Saudi Arabia had "betrayed Islam and the holy shrines" and was the defender of an American brand of Islam.

"The regime in Hijaz (Saudi Arabia) has blocked the path of Iranian pilgrims in violation of the Koran and tradition and it would not gain anything from this action," he said.

Iran demands the restoration of its hajj quota of 150,000 pilgrims and rejects the Saudi-imposed quota of only 45,000 as politically-motivated and baseless.

USSR Conveys Views on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visit

LD0607171189 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev today called on Foreign Ministry deputy for Euro-American Affairs Mahhud Vaezi to discuss mutual ties in the wake of the Iranian speaker's landmark visit to the Soviet Union last June.

"Positive, important and historical" was the phrase both used to describe Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit, according to the Foreign Ministry's Press Department.

Gudev said the Soviet Politburo after assessing the visit has described it as "positive and promising." It has ordered all related institutions and organs to take serious steps for immediate implementation of all agreements concluded during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit, he added.

Iran-Soviet cooperation would serve as the "basis for peace and stability in the region," said Va'ezi, and expressed readiness for long-term cooperation with the northern neighbour, with whom Iran shares a 2,500 km long border.

Chief Justice Views Hajj Quota at Friday Prayers

LD0707121389 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—The chief justice Friday prayed that God would give strength to remove the "corpse of Taghut" from the holy shrines in Saudi Arabia.

Delivering a sermon at Friday prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili also rejected as excuses Saudi claims that there were not enough facilities to accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims.

"We want God to give us the strength...to throw out the corpse of this Taghut from the house of God," he said.

Taghut is a Koranic term used for rulers who have rebelled against God, namely Egyptian pharaohs.

The chief justice said the Saudis were giving baseless excuses to justify a quota of just 45,000 Iranian pilgrims, instead of 150,000 as in recent years, imposed after the 1987 Mecca massacre when more than 400 hajjis, mostly Iranians were martyred.

He said if the Iranians went to Mecca just to buy 'radio and television sets and other gifts' Riyadh would not have objected to the Iranian quota.

"The Taghut of Mecca... is preventing (Iranian) pilgrims from (the hajj) because he fears they will be the followers of righteous martyrs in their actions, thoughts and disavowal of infidels," Ardabili said.

His comments follow Thursday's hajj message from the leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i who blasted the Saudi hajj policy which he said was intended to "gratify the U.S. and Israel."

Leader Khamene'i called on pilgrims from other nations to demonstrate their hatred towards world powers and discuss political issues facing the Islamic world.

Without politics, the hajj would be incomplete, he stressed.

Ayatollah Ardabili said the true hajj performance was made by the founder of the house of God, Abraham, who fought against the oppressive rulers of his time and destroyed their idol statues.

The chief justice also strongly defended the right to "legitimate freedom" but said people could not be free to insult Islam, as Salman Rushdie had done in his novel 'The Satanic Verses'.

"We believe man will develop with freedom and die under oppression,' he said.

"Taking away an individual's legitimate freedoms is equal to killing an individual. Thus in the Islamic Republic everyone should be able to think freely and express it without pressure and sense of fear."

He stressed that people should heed the late Imam Khomeyni's call for solidarity, a theme which he said had been nearly in all the imam's messages and statements. "Whatever we have is from unity. The problems of war and absence of the imam were removed by the presence of the people and their solidarity," he said.

The chief justice also warned bandits and drug traffickers that there would be no let up in the tough campaign against narcotics and lawlessness.

He thanked judes and other judicial authorities, as well as the disciplinary forces in combating drug smuggling despite the dangers they faced.

Further on First Sermon

LD0707184989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 7 Jul 89

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Chief Justice 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 7 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] What we have attained in this revolution has been due to the unanimity of word. [passage omitted] Brothers! Sisters! Be grateful for having been endowed with such a blessing, since in the next few days, we will have to strike a heavy blow against the enemy's mouth—which is full of hyperbolical nonsense—with our unity and unanimity of word. [crowd chants in support]

Concerning casting votes for the Constitution, our last memento from His Eminence, the imam, as well as the presidential elections—participating, attending and not being apathetic on such occasions will have wondrous effects around the world. This is one of the imam's instructions, of which I have reminded you.

The second issue is that of granting freedom to the people. The honorable officials of the system should give the people freedom: intellectual freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of writing, freedom of action. Man is a being who cultivates in freedom, and dies when such freedom is stifled. [passage omitted] Freedom in the Islamic sense is different from freedom in the Western sense. The Western version of freedom is unrestrained and devoid of limits. We do not have such freedom in Islam. In Islam we do have freedom, yet freedom which is controlled and limited. [passage omitted] Sometimes, the Islamic culture clashes with the Western culture over a word, an issue or an action, since they have their own different values.

The best example is that of Salman Rushdie. According to Islamic culture, Salman Rushdie has gone past the limit. He forsook God, insulted the prophet, and mocked the sanctities. It is at this juncture, that we do not give an arena of freedom. This is an arena for a clash. Therefore, His Eminence the imam—without any qualms or hesitations over what would happen if he issued such an edict—went ahead and issued Salman Rushdie's death sentence. [passage omitted]

This is a clash of cultures. We did not budge by one degree, while they gradually sent back their envoys withdrew their allegations, and took our side.

As for the third instruction of the Imam—it pertains to the honorable strata of the clerics and the seminarians. It is that of intellectual progress. [passage omitted] Imam had stressed that if these seminarians or those clerics who are engaged in teaching do not familiarize themselves with the issues taking plac in the community, they are not true Mujtahids [jurisconsult]. [passage omitted]

The fourth and last instruction of the imam, to which I would like to draw your attention, is that of caring for the deprived and the weak, as well as the fight against global polytheism. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon

LD0707185289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Second Friday Prayers sermon delivered by Chief Justice 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 7 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. My second sermon is devoted to an expression of hate, a word of thanks, and a prayer. Some time has passed since the tragic incident of the martyrs of the Haram, but the bitter memory remains of those who, in the words of the imam, were the offspring of the Prophet Ibrahim and who had gone to perform their Ibrahimite rites but were treated in a dastardly manner. This Taghut [derogatory term for Saudi Royal family] of Mecca did not match the level of that tragic scene. Because of the shame of the action which it committed, and in order to stop any feelings of compassion for them in Mecca, by the way of making various excuses which are worse than the sin itself, it has prevented other pilgrims from going

to Mecca. This is because it is frightened that, if these pilgrims go to Mecca, they may follow those martyrs in the path of justice: their actions, thoughts, and movements. The path which is free from blasphemy. Yes! These pilgrims, if they go, would be the same as the others. [passage omitted]

A group of people who desired to follow the path of Ibrahim and perform the Ibrahimite rites in Mecca, and give content to their action by moving in the direction of Ibrahim's line, were faced by Taghut. But if someone goes to Mecca in order to buy souveniers, television sets, and other things, then they have room for them. They have room for those who buy television or radio, fabrics, or other souvenirs. However, when it comes to Iran, they claim that it is impossible for 150,000, or 100,000, or 50,000, and that they have no room or facilities. They claim that they have no bread or water. May God deprive you of water and bread, for good. May God send this Taghut of Mecca—with His wrath—to the same place where those Nimrods were sent. We beseech God to give us the necessary strength and might in order to throw out the corpse of this Taghut from the House of God, just as we discarded the Iranian Taghut [Pahlavi regime], from Iran. [crowd chanting in support: Death to America, UK, Israel, and Saudi Arabia] [passage omitted]

At this point, I feel obliged to thank the entire revolutionary courts and judicial courts which are relentlessly pursuing their campaign against narcotics, drug-smugglers, and those who threaten the country's security on the roads, deserts, towns, and other places, and are passing severe sentences against them in such a way that, even outside Iran, this movement is seen as a positive one, and this campaign is regarded as a serious one. Thanks also to the law and order officials who endanger their lives—sometimes they are injured, sometimes killed or martyred. I hope that God will grant success to these dear ones until the day when there is total security in this Islamic nation. [Arabic passage omitted]

Khamene'i Addresses Bazaar Merchants 5 Jul

LD0507221189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a meeting with a large number of the bazaar merchants and guild members as well as rural people this afternoon, stressed the need for governmental and popular [as heard] investment in agriculture

At the said meeting Minister of Construction Jihad Foruzesh and Secretary of the Guild's Islamic Societies Sa'd Amani in short speeches offered their condolences on the occasion of the demise of His Excellency Imam Khomeyni, the angelic leader of the Islamic Revolution. They also pledged the allegiance of those present to the governor of the Muslims. [passage omitted]

The leader of our country then said: If we intend to make our country relatively reliant on home resources, as well as self-sufficient, then we must invest in the rural areas. It is of importance to any country that it be able to stand on its own feet and provide for its basic needs. That depends on the farmer's work and the attention which the authorities pay to utilizing governmental and popular capital in agricultural affairs. [passage omitted]

Continuing his remarks, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i appreciated the services of the Muslim and committed bazaaris, and guild members to the revolution, Islam and the imam of ummah. He then said: If true trust and security govern the urban exchanges system, then the people will rest tranquil. The faithful, committed, and revolutionary guild members and tradesmen who are faithful to the imam and Islam must not allow the guild's activity to be polluted by the wrong and profiteering methods of a few.

The governor of the Muslims also recommended that the faithful bazaari youth safeguard the honor of Islam and the revolution in the environment of the bazaar. He said: All of us are responsible and indebted to Islam, the Koran and the revolution. It is due to the blessing of the faithfulness of all the people to Islam, the Koran and the revolution, that today on a world-wide level the Islamic republic is acknowledged as a fully stablized and strong regime.

In conclusion our country's leader said that the real basis of strength and stability in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the reliance on the votes and unanimous presence of the people on the scene. He then said: The duty of each one of the people and the authorities is to safeguard this strong presence and unanimous strong will of the people, which rule over the country. We must make our bonds stronger to implement the divine and Islamic objectives of the revolution, the way our dear imam wished. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Congratulates Intelligence Officials

LD0907111789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The deputy intelligence minister, the commander in chief's representative in the Armed Forces Security and Intelligence Organization, the head of that organization, and a number of directors general and experts from the Intelligence Ministry and the Armed Forces Security and Intelligence Organization, who have achieved outstanding success in identifying and dealing blows to U.S. espionage networks, were re...ved by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning. [passage omitted]

Referring to the fact that his emminence the imam had aptly said that our crusading brothers on the battlefronts and in intelligence are the revolution's unknown soldiers, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: You are

striving on the intelligence front where the threat of enemy conspiracies is no less than that on the military fronts; it is on a much larger scale. [passage omitted]

Praising the brothers in the country's intelligence apparatus, which destroyed one of the biggest U.S. espionage networks in Iran, he said: Truly what you have achieved is great and admirable. For you were able to identify and destroy a big network together with all the persons who had infiltrated the various sectors and you dealt a hard blow to the enemy. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Velayati Returns From Damascus
LD0807184989 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned from home Saturday from a two day visit to Damascus, accompanied by several Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian religious and political officials.

A number of Hizballah leaders, head of the Amal movement Nabih Birri, Secretary-General of the People's Front for Liberation of Palestine Ahmad Jibril and a group of 'ulema from Syria, Lebanon and Palestine are accompanying Velayati.

They are here to participate in a ceremony marking the 40th day after the demise of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni and to vow allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei.

Velayati was in Geneva this week where he addressed the disarmament conference. He later flew to Belgrade on a one-day official visit for talks with Yugoslav leaders. He arrived in Damascus from Belgrade on Friday.

Velayati: UN Chief's Goodwill 'Not Enough'
LD0907060289 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who returned to Tehran Saturday night praised efforts of U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

But he said Perez de Cuellar's good intention alone would not be sufficient to break the deadlock in the Iran-Iraq peace talks and the Security Council must support his efforts.

Velayati met Perez de Cuellar in Geneva where he headed a delegation to the disarmament conference.

He said in his two rounds of talks with Perez de Cuellar, he felt the U.N. chief was working towards the implementation of the resolution with good will.

However this is not enough and the Security Council must back Perez de Cuellar so that Iraq will give in to executing the resolution," he added.

On the Afghanistan issue, he said the U.N. chief would dispatch an envoy to Iran in the near future to follow discuss the matter.

Turning to his visit to Damascus where he met President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese Muslim militia leaders, Velayati said further coordination among Lebanese and Palestinian forces were discussed.

Hizballah and Amal leaders, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine as well as a number of 'ulema from Lebanon, Syria and Palestine accompanied Velayati to Tehran.

UK Muslims May Act 'Outside the Law'
LD0807091589 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—A Tehran daily has said the rejection of a call to extend Britain's blasphemy law to protect Islam against slander may force the country's 1.5 million Muslims to seek ways outside the law to guard their rights.

"The Muslims in Britain might have to consider ways that perhaps might not sit well with the desire for co-existence which has been blocked to them quite 'democratically' of course," the TEHRAN TIMES editorial said Saturday.

"If and when such developments shape up, it will be only out of ignorance that one can blame the Muslim community for the violence that might occur."

It said the main obstacle hindering Muslims in their struggle to protect their rights was a "very basic defect" in Britain's legal system and the lack of a written constitution.

Ever since the publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" by Indian-Born British citizen Salman Rushdie Muslims have called for Rushdie's trial and punishment and reforming the law to grant Muslims equal status with Christians.

Tens of thousands of Muslims held an unprecedented massive rally in London six weeks ago to show their solidarity on the issue and stress that the Rushdie affair would not end unless the British Government took action.

Iran severed diplomatic relations with London in March over Britain's stand in support of Rushdie's so-called right to slander Islam.

The TEHRAN TIMES said it was predictable that given "the racist orientation" of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet "no justice would be done to the Muslim minority...."

But it reminded London that "equality of all citizens before the law constitutes the very fabric and fundaments of democratic norms in any civilized society."

Joint Border High Commission With Turkey Meets
LD0807105389 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., July 8, IRNA—The Iran-Turkey Border High Commission held its first meeting after 14 years here Saturday [8 July]

Officials of the two countries, including officials from border provinces, were present.

The Iranian delegation is headed by Zeynolabeddin 'Ata'i governor general of West Azarbayjan Province and includes border authorities and a number of Foreign Ministry officials. The Turkish side is led by Foreign Ministry Director General for Consular Affairs Zeki Celik [name as received] deputy governor generals of Turkish Provinces of Agri, Van and Hakkari, bordering Iran, and a security official.

Ahmad Khomeyni Receives Fadlallah in Tehran
LD0807133789 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese alim 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadhlallah in a meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni here Saturday, condoled the passing away of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni.

Fadhlallah also vowed that Lebanese Muslims, alongside the leadership and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, would continue treading the imam's path.

Imam Khomeyni passed away on June 3, nearly two weeks after a surgery to stop bleeding in his digestive system.

Pakistan

Bhutto Proposes Arms Control Talks With India
BK0707154889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jul 89

[Text] Answering questions during a breakfast meeting with British newspaper editors and senior journalists in London this morning, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto put forward a proposal for arms control negotiations between India and Pakistan so that the two countries can reduce their defense expenditures. She emphasized that Pakistan does not want a nuclear or conventional arms race in South Asia. Benazir Bhutto asked: If the United States and the Soviet Union can hold a dialogue on arms control, then why can't India and Pakistan also do so? There must be a permanent solution to problems and India and Pakistan should take steps to create an atmosphere of mutual trust, she observed.

The prime minister said the Pakistani people feel concerned at the testing of weapons like the Agni [Indian surface-to-surface] missile and the massive buildup in the naval force in their neighboring country. Such a situation puts pressure on the government, she added.

Nonetheless, the prime minister said, Pakistan-India relations have improved. She and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi held talks in Islamabad on the occasion of the summit conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] in December last year and later signed agreements, including one on not attacking each other's nuclear installations.

The prime minister announced that Rajiv Gandhi will come to Islamabad on 16 July and she herself will visit India and other SAARC member-countries next month. Thus, contacts are being maintained at the highest level in order to further improve bilateral relations.

Answering another question, Benazir Bhutto said her government's policy is not to manufacture a nuclear bomb or any nuclear weapon, as Pakistan is against nuclear proliferation.

Explaining the situation in Afghanistan, the prime minister said Pakistan wants a political solution of the Afghan problem.

Radio Pakistan's special correspondent, Safdar Ahad, says that the prime minister also referred to her government's policy of giving special attention to social sectors like education, health, and employment.

Bhutto Speaks on Significance of UK, France Trip
BK0507084089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said her visit to Britain will help further strengthen already existing good relations between the two countries. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning before her departure for London on a week-long official visit at the invitation of the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, she said she will discuss with the British leaders bilateral matters, and regional and international issues. Replying to a question, she said all matters of significance in Pak-Britain relations, including those relating to finance, defense, and security, will come up for discussion.

To another question, she expressed the hope that Pakistan would regain her membership of the Commonwealth this year.

The prime minister, who will also pay a 3-day visit to Paris to attend the bicentenary celebrations of the French Revolution, said her presence at the celebration would be a gesture of goodwill and solidarity with the people of France. She said her visit was in response to the invitation of President Mitterrand.

Asked if she would discuss the question of a nuclear reprocessing plant, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that subject will be discussed when the French president will visit Pakistan later this year in response to an invitation she will be extending to him during the current visit.

She was seen off at the airport by the speaker of the National Assembly, Punjab governor, federal ministers, advisers, members of the Parliament, services chiefs, and senior officials.

Nawaz Sharif Criticizes Government Policies
BK0507024489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Jul 89

[Text] Nawaz Sharif, president of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, has criticized the government's position on Afghanistan, Siachen, and nuclear issues. Talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi last night, he alleged that the manner in which the federal government is trying to resolve these vital issues may jeopardize Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Unknown Gunmen Kill Afghan Rebel Commander
BK0407013489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 3 Jul 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 3 (AFP)—A mujahidin commander was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in this town bordering Afghanistan Monday [3 July], the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

Zahir Shah, 35, had been commanding guerrillas of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) in Konarha Province. He was shot dead as he entered a local hotel. NIFA is a moderate resistance group considered close to the former monarch Zahir Shah, who was exiled to Rome after his overthrow in 1974.

The official agency said the gunmen escaped from the scene, leaving the rebel commander in a pool of blood.

The motives behind the murder were not known immediately, it said.

Commander Shah had been fighting against forces of the Kabul regime since the communist coup in 1978.

2 Students, Policeman Killed at Karachi University
BK0807132489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] There was an exchange of fire between rival groups of students at the Karachi University campus today. A spokesman of the University told Radio Pakistan's Karachi representative that the firing lasted for 3 hours. Two students and one policeman were killed and five others injured. He said the university has been closed and it will now reopen on Monday, the 17th of this month.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa, India's Gandhi Exchange Letters
BK0807040689 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 8 Jul 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] President Premadasa of Sri Lanka has given a warning to India that it will be committing a gross violation of international law if it does not withdraw its troops from the north and east of the island. President's warning came in a strongly worded letter to the Indian prime minister, Mr Gandhi.

In another move, the leader of the Sri Lankan opposition, Mrs Bandaranaike, said she will be moving a vote of no confidence in the government over its handling of the crisis. From Colombo (Chris Nuttol):

[Begin recording] In response to a parliamentary question, the complete correspondence was tabled between the leaders of Sri Lanka and India since June the 1st when the president first requested the withdrawal of Indian troops. In his latest letter of July the 4th, the president warned that if India feels its Army is playing a mandatory role in Sri Lanka, this would be a serious interference in the internal affairs of a friendly sovereign country. It would also be a gross violation of the norms of international law.

The six letters exchanged between the two leaders revealed both standing firm—the president on his end of July deadline for the pullout and the Prime Minister Gandhi on his troops remaining in Sri Lanka until there is a mutually agreed time table for withdrawal.

Also in Parliament, the leader of the opposition, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, announced she will be moving a motion of no confidence in the government and asking it to resign. She said it was demonstrably unable to tackle the problems that had been caused by a transport strike, which has brought the country to a virtual standstill. She warned the public that strict new emergency regulations brought in on Thursday, meant the government had declared a war of attrition against the strikers. She said the government's refusal to negotiate had caused the worst crisis in the country since independence. [end recording]

Correspondence Reported

BK0807114189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] President Premadasa says providing safety and security for the Sri Lankan citizens is the sole responsibility of the Sri Lankan Government. In a message to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the president says the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement does not and cannot in international law provide the mandate for the Government of India or its Armed Forces to assume any responsibility for this function unless at the express request of the Sri Lankan Government.

The president was replying to a message sent by Mr Gandhi last Friday [30 June]. In his message, the Indian premier had said that the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] had a mandate in terms of India's role as a guarantor, as he put it, for ensuring the physical safety and security of all communities in the northern and eastern provinces.

The correspondence between the president, Premadasa, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi from the 2d of June to date was tabled in parliament yesterday by Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge in response to questions for oral answers submitted by Mr A.H.M. Azhar, member of parliament.

On the 2d of June, the president wrote that he would like all IPKF personnel withdrawn from Sri Lanka by the 31st of July this year. President Premadasa in an earlier message had requested Mr Gandhi to ensure that the IPKF did not take any offensive action against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] following the cessation of hostilities between the government and the LTTE. The president had further said that such action or intensification of operations was liable to prejudice the current negotiations and prolong the armed conflict.

Mr Gandhi in his reply said he hoped that consequent to giving up violence, the LTTE would resume, with the surrender of arms through the Sri Lankan Government, a process which he said had started in August 1987 and was not yet complete. He had further said that unless the LTTE undertook to hand over their arms and renounce violence not only toward the Sri Lankan Government but toward the other citizens of the north and the east, their cessation of hostilities would be meaningless. Mr Gandhi had further claimed that the cessation of hostilities between Tamil militant groups and the Sri Lankan forces, as provided under the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, had been achieved on 31 July 1987.

President Premadasa in his reply, however, pointed out that Mr Gandhi's claim did not accord with facts. He said the LTTE ceased hostilities against the Sri Lankan security forces only for a few days but resumed violence which continued until they announced a cessation of hostilities last month. He also pointed out that during the interim period, 148 services and police personnel were killed and 80 wounded, in addition to 481 civilians killed and 115 injured.

Mr Premadasa further reminded Mr Gandhi that the LTTE's cessation of hostilities covered not only the government but also the people in the north and the east—in fact, the people in the whole of Sri Lanka. At the same time, the LTTE had reiterated its commitment to resolve all outstanding problems through negotiations and discussions and indicated its readiness to enter the democratic process.

On Mr Gandhi's claim that the IPKF had a role as a guarantor of peace in the north and the east, President Premadasa reminded him of the failure of the IPKF during the past 2 years to prevent the killings of a number of civilians and the displacement of an even larger number of people from their homes in the north and the east.

The president told Mr Gandhi in conclusion that any interpretation of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord which sought to provide a mandatory role for India or its Armed Forces within Sri Lanka otherwise than at the express request of the Sri Lankan Government would constitute a serious interference in the internal affairs of a friendly and sovereign country. It would be a gross violation of the peremptory norms of international law. He was sure such was not Mr Gandhi's intention. The president added that these clarifications would enable Mr Gandhi to ensure that the Indian force did not continue any offensive operations against the LTTE.

Security Forces Given 'Shoot-at-Sight' Powers

BK0607065389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 6 Jul 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, stringent measures are in force to deal with the situation arising out of the series of strikes in public utility services called by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [People's Liberation Front].

The foreign minister and cabinet spokesman, Mr Wijeratne, told newsmen this morning in Colombo that security forces have been given powers to shoot at sight anybody trying to create trouble. All public meetings, including those called by the trade unions, have been banned indefinitely.

The Sri Lankan Government clamped tough press censorship laws in the country yesterday. Reporting of strikes, political killings, students' unrest, and subversive activities have been banned.

Council Urges Premadasa To End Talks With LTTE

BK0907125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Northeastern Provincial Council has urged President Premadasa to call off his talks with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] as it is still engaged in the killing spree. In a resolution passed with an overwhelming majority in Trincomalee, the council said it is the duty of Colombo to oppose forces working against democracy. It warned the Sri Lankan Government of grave consequences if it acts contrary to this appeal.

Earlier moving the resolution, the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, said many people who returned to the democratic process have been abducted and killed by the LTTE. He said the Sri Lankan Government should respect the democratic rights of the people and stop its talks with the LTTE, which refuses to return to the path of democracy.

The Sri Lankan minister for rural development, Mr S. Thondoman, said every effort must be made to keep up the age old ties between his country and India. Mr Thondoman, who is in Delhi in connection with a meeting of the South Asian Trade Union Council of which he is the president, was speaking to newsmen today. He complemented the peacekeeping force [PKF] and said it created a situation which forced the LTTE to come to negotiations. He said India and Sri Lanka should work out an agreement, if necessary, for the withdrawal of the PKF and to break the present impasse.

Mr Thondoman said he had conveyed his views to the Indian leaders during his talks with them.

TULF: Hasty Indian Pullout Will Lead To Chaos

BK0807161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Text] The [Sri Lankan] Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] leader, Mr Amirthalingam, has appealed to the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, to invite all Tamil groups and India to negotiate a lasting solution to the Tamil problem and work out a time frame for the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force [PKF]. In an interview to All India Radio correspondent Sebastian Roberts in Colombo, he said that the Sri Lankan Government's talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam alone will not solve the problem, as it might lead to other Tamil groups giving up the path of democracy and taking up arms again.

Mr Amirthalingam warned that any hasty withdrawal of the PKF would lead to chaos and bloodshed in the Northeastern Province.

IPKF Says LTTE Abducted 80 School Children

BK0807053089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 8 Jul 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 8 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has kidnapped some 80 schoolchildren in the island's northern Jaffna Peninsula, Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) soldiers said Saturday.

An IPKF spokesman in southern Madras City said Indian soldiers in Jaffna had received reports from civilian residents that the LTTE had abducted 80 boys aged between 12 and 15.

The Defence Ministry in New Delhi said it had confirmed the reports and added that the kidnappings had taken place in Jaffna's Palali area where the IPKF has a tactical air base.

The IPKF said the LTTE kidnapped the boys from Palali's Mamunai, Kaddaikadu and Vettilaikeni towns but did not say when the mass abductions had taken place.

The LTTE, the best armed Tamil guerrilla group in Sri Lanka, recruits its cadres from the Tamil-dominated Jaffna region and observers said the abductions could be aimed at forcing the boys to join the rebel group. [passage omitted]